TIMES

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http://www.the-times.co.uk

How the 'Headless Man' was trapped page 8

I became a witch ... and it's wicked! page 21

• What next for Noel Edmonds? media times pages 38-41

TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES **Brat Pop's** next big thing

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS token page 26

WEEKDAY

Outcry over £18 charge for pensioners

Millennium Dome tickets cost up to £20

THE Millennium Dome will be Britain's most expensive sourist attraction, with adults paying £20 each for full-price tickets

Admission prices for the E758 million exhibition announced yesterday by the New Millennium Experience impany are particularly steep for the elderly. Single persioners must pay El8 for a ticket — a discount of just 10 per cent — while students pay £16.50 and the unemployed get in for E12.

But one offer announced yesterday should be welcomed by people in remote areas. National Express coach lines are introducing a £29.99 flat-rate return fare from anywhere. in the country, which includes: Dome entry. This represents a saying of up to £13 on the company's normal fares.

Pensioners groups immediately attacked the Domes cathy fee and claimed that the contrageous cost would deter elderly visitors. Alyson Rose of Help the Aged said: "A price of at least half that would be much more realistic — £18 is just under a quarter of the basic state pension. The basic state pension is £66.75, while the average jobseeker's allowance is £50.35.

The £20 ticket for adults is the highest in Britain, beating Alton Towers at £19.50. Families will get big discounts, however. The "Family Five" ticket for two adults and three children or one adult and four children costs just E57, or E11.40 each. That compares favourably with other similar attractions - Alton Towers and Chessington World



of Adventures offer a E59 deal for four people, while Thorpe Park has a similar ticket at £56. A single ticket for a child aged 5-15 will cost £16.50, while children under 5 go free.

anti-poverty crusade

The Millennium Experience company said that most pensioners would come as part of a family group, or would benefit from a £12 price for groups of 15 or more senior critizens. Adults in groups of at least 15 will also get money off, and a mil-lion schoolchildren will win free visits under a lottery announced on Wednesday by the Prime Minister.

Dome prices are deliberately pitched to encourage visitors to-come in groups. Jennie Page, chief executive of NMEC, said: "We want family and friends, making the millennium a shared experience they will remember for the rest of their

The prices were fair, and should be compared with one off events like World Cup football matches or opera performances rather than theme parks that open every day of every year. Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the Minister in charge of the Dome-said they represented "great value

for money". But Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture Secretary, was more critical. "A trip to the Dome was never going to be a cheap day our, but whether it represents value for money will depend upon what is in it," he said. "It does seem strange that the pricing policy appears to take a more favourable approach to jobseekers than it does to senior citizens." Campaigners said the prices would be too much for families on income support or lone parents.

The New Millennium Experience Company must recoup £194 million from ticket sales, merchandising and other commercial deals to meet costs, and must attract 12 million visitors to meet targets. Up to two thirds of all tickets will be sold at a discount, and up to 24 million will were set by the NMEC board.
Combined packages involving.
rail, air and boat travel on the go to overseas tourists. The rates

Thames will be available. Tickets will go on sale on Septem-

ber 22 at National Lottery outlets across Britain, and through the Dome's own call centre. No tickets will go on sale for Millennium Eve. Up to 10,000 members of the public will be at the opening night but they are likely to be selected by ballot.

The National Express offer could prove tempting to travellers who want a cut-price ticket to London but do not want to visit the Dome. According to National Express's cur-rent tariffs, a single adult can buy a standard three-month return ticket from Aberdeen to London for a standard fare of £43. By taking the Dome offer, £13 could be saved.

National Express said: "The finer details have yet to be confirmed but this is a very specific offer and we have not specified yet how and when it will be made available."The Dome tickets will include the provi-



A triumphant Mick Fitzgerald and See More Business after their Gold Cup triumph yesterday

Times tipster's golden 3,000-1 treble

THE final day of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival was a triumph for the Somerset trainer Paul Nicholls and for The Times racing tipster

Rob Wright.
Nicholis produced See More
Business to win the Tote Gold Cup at 16-1, part of a remarka-ble treble for Wright (below), who also tipped Anzum, the 40-1 winner of the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle, and Space Trucker, who won the Grand Annual Chase at 7-2. Anyone



investing £1 on the three horses to win would have collected £3,136.50.

See More Business, unlucky when well fancied last year, prevailed by a length from the 66-1 shot Go Ballistic. The winner was ridden by Mick Fitzgerald, who won Wednes-day's Queen Mother Champi-on Chase on the Nichollstrained Call Equiname

Until this week. Nicholls had not trained a Cheltenham winner. Now he has three and taken the lead in the race for the trainer's championship.

Racing, pages 46, 47, 52



Adults: £20 Children under 5: free Students: £16.50 Pensioners: £18.00 Unemployed: £12.00

OIDAN & VI WEATHER

LETTERS OBITUARIES

COURT & SOCIAL 24

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GROUPS or 1 adult/4 children): £57.00 Pensioners (15 or more): £12 each Student/college trips: £14.50 each Adults (15 or more): £17.50 each

School visits: £8 each

Tougher GM laws sought

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

NEW laws on labelling genetically modified (GM) foods do not go far enough: Britain's leading supermarket chains said last night.

Members of the British Retail Consortium, which represents 90 per cent of retailers including Sainsbury's, Tesco and Asda, said that they would be labelling foods containing any GM ingredients, including oils and additives not

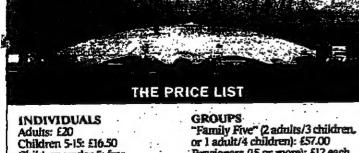
covered by the regulations.

Shops will face fines of up to £5,000 from today if they fail to label foods which contains GM soya and maize. But restaurants and other catering out-

lets will have another six months before they have to declare if any of their dishes contain GM foods. They will not have to list ingredients on the menu. but customers will be able to ask waiters for detailed information on what is

in their meal. Friends of the Earth complained that the new laws would not enable consumers to avoid eating GM ingredients as unsegregated food stocks continue to be allowed into Britain.

Caterers' grace, page 4



Admirals bridge cultural divide to hail CROSSWORDS 26.52 the Purple Stone Hero of 50 years ago SIMON JENKINS 22

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BELING

IN AN extraordinary gesture of goodwill, almost unheard of

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in more than 200 years of Si-MEDIA 38-49 BUSINESS 27-34 admirals from Britain and China yesterday took part in a ceremony to mark the tragic events that followed commonist shelling of the British frigate, HMS Amethyst, on the Yangtze River 50 years ago. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, the First Sea Lord, and Admirai Zhao Guojun. Deputy

Chief of Staff of the People's Liberation Army Navy, dropped a floral wreath over the side of the HMS Boxer into the muddy waters of the Yangthe near Shanghai. In doing so they honoured the 17 British and Chinese crew members

who died during the seige.

The Amethyst, on a mission to Nanking to relieve another Navy warship acting as guardship at the British Embassy, was fired on and disabled by



Lieutenant-Commander John Kerans guided the Amethyst down the Yangzie under fire

and machinegun fire, had

been unaware of yesterday's

wreath-laying ceremony. On bearing the news, she said: "I

communist artillery batteries. After three months trapped on the river while repairs were carried out, the frigate slipped away one night to freedom_

Even today, local Chinese recount the saga of the ship they call the "Purple Stone Hero". "It's an integral part of commu-nist folklore," one analyst said. Last night the widow of the

commanding officer of the Am-

ethyst spoke of her gratitude at

the way the 1949 incident had been remembered in China. Stephanie Kerans, widow of Lieutenant-Commander John Kerans, whose bravery and

leadership skills led to the drain Plymouth." matic dash for freedom down 140 miles of the treacherous Yangtze under heavy artillery

am very happy to hear about this. It will be 50 years next month since the Amethyst incident and there are plans to hold anniversary celebrations

Mrs Kerans, who lives in Surrey, said she still had a miniature of the frigate which she received from King George VI when she and her husband travelled to Buckingham Palace, Lieutenant-Com-

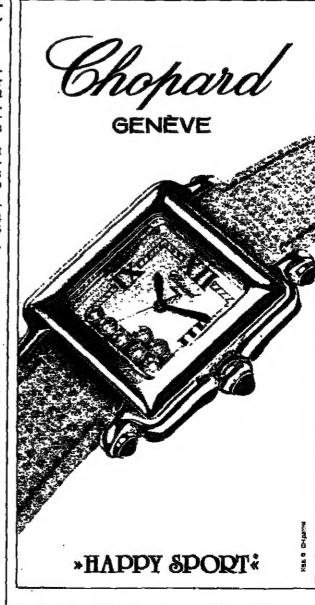
Distinguished Service Order for his courageous leadership. Anthony Galsworthy, the British Ambassador to China, witnessed yesterday's ceremony. The Boxer is on an informal visit to Shanghai - the first by a British warship for more than ten years.

Observers said the tribute was extremely rare in the history of British-Sino ties. With the successful handover of Hong Kong, however, relations between the two countries have improved significantly. The visit last October by Tony Blair was also regarded as a success by both sides.

The unprecedented gesture of goodwill paves the way for the visit to Britain in June of Admiral Shi Yunsheng, Commander of the PLA Navy.

Admiral Boyce, who is on a five-day visit, is also due to visit the Chinese naval base at Qingdao and Beijing.

Old foes' salute, page 14



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The jargon of education is enough to make anybody sick



Lucy: in the doghouse

ucy was sick on the Com-mons floor last Thursday morning. I now know why. This week, David Blunken's guide dog was barred from Education Questions, answered before lunch

Unkind tongues had suggested it was a speech by Dav-id Willetts, Mr Blunkett's Tory shadow, which had caused Lucy to take ill last time. Maybe: but something will have triggered the nausea. Watching MPs and ministers discussing education and employment yesterday, led by a dog-less Secretary of State, we guessed the trigger. It's the appalling jargon.

most sick. Education has been hi-jacked by the educationalists. Ministers 'discourse has left this planet and spins towards a vortex of techno-babble. It started the moment Estelle Morris, a junior minister, rose. She started talking about phonics - and then "synthetic phonics".

The question was about learning to read. Or so I thought. But Ms Morris explained that reading meant "accessing the curriculum" and what was needed was a value-added baseline assessment". She added: " what we now have under this Government to which we can definitetake credit for Morris should access a grammar text-



tered Smith. MPs should com-

pare areas "where pathfinder

MATTHEW PARRIS ## POLITICAL SKETCH

book; her phonics had gone areas were up-and-running awry. Andrew Smith, another with areas before New Deal was up-and-running". Back-bencher David Lock (Lab, minister, told us about" a comprehensive programme-two evaluation "of "core perform-Wyre Forest) agreed (I think). ance indicators". Mostly, Mr Smith was talking about New Deal (the definite article is omitted by the on-message) and New Deal triggers Gateways. Gateways, now " rolled out", are "up-and-running". "Gateway has been an out-standing success-feature," wit-

Gateway phase is absolutely vital to train people into being job-ready ". Not every back-bencher was enthralled. Syd Rapson (Lab, Portsmouth N) confessed to being "an old scep-tic" on "personal job accounts" which Smith said would be "up-and-running" next year (not yet rolled out, you see); but Syd's scentision

doubt he's job-ready. Margaret Hodge, a minister who employment-fowanted cussed action plans", told MPs that a " client-focussed service" could "access" an "extensive range" of something or other. Lucy would have been accessing her sick bag.

But back to education, where we were told that " individual learning accounts would act as "catalysis". This is not even good chemistry, let alone plain English. When Mrs Hodge was asked about play schools we nursed the hope she might talk about toys and crayons. Some hope." Diversity of provision, "she bur-bled, meant that " choice

should not be decided by a pro-ducer-led interest." Poor Lucy. This was a world away from " sit! ", "heel!" and "good dog!". Another minister commended nationwide access to interactive learning technology". Even the normally plain-

speaking Mr Blunkett, lacking Lucy's critical reaction, strayed. Talking of "basic skills needs" in individual learning accounts, he thought that "many account-holders will want to access advice and information." A Liberal Democrat. George Willis (Harro-Knaresborough) thanked him for "rolling out the issue of tax relief". But Blunkett retains a sense of humour. When new Labour says

couraging start" you know it's in deep trouble, but Blunkett wanted to assure MPs that under New Deal the jobless would be learning useful skills. As an example of a frivolous skill he was unwise to choose deep-sea-diving, our suntanned Deputy Prime Minister's latest passion. There

were Tory whoops. "Hoist with my own petard!" laughed Blunkett, who then (interestingly) covered his eyes in shame. What he meant, of course, was that he was upwardly-driven by his own catalyst, triggering a roll-out of self-focused embarrass-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Forces

serve up

'ethnic'

rations

sensitive ration packs to cater for the different minorities joining the Armed Forces has played a part in doubling the number of black and Asian re-

cruits in the Royal Navy this

year. The proportion of ethnic

total 44,000 - to 1.6 per cent.

The target is to increase the

proportion to at least 5 per

Yesterday the new ethnic ra-

tion packs were unveiled -and tasted - by Doug Hend-

erson, the Armed Forces Min-

ister. To prove the quality of

the new cooking styles, Mr Henderson had halal (Mus-

lim) food for breakfast - a

vegetable curry. Captain Andrew Cameron

assistant director of naval re-

cruiting, said the new food

was a "metaphor" for the ef-

forts under way in all three

Armed Forces to enlist more

The Government suffered a fresh defeat in the Lords when 🤤

biack and Asian troops.

Health defeat

cent in four years.

minority personnel in the Navy is increasing from 0.8

Ministers defy lorry drivers over tax threat

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ROLAND WATSON

MINISTERS held firm last night over £2 billion of motoring tax increases despite threats from protesting lorry drivers to bring London to a

The drivers are preparing to converge on the capital on Monday in protest at fuel and vehicle tax rises announced in last week's Budget.

Downing Street tried to defuse the row by announcing a meeting next week between John Reid, the Transport Minister, and hauliers. However, the Prime Minister's official spokesman made clear that the tax rises were part of a Budget package that could not be "unpicked" for certain interest groups.

Tensions between the Government and hauliers grew as ministers angrily rejected claims that 400,000 British lorry drivers were worse off than overseas hauliers. The Government argued that overall operating costs for haulage compa-nies were lower in Britain than in other countries.

Although senior figures in the industry tried to deter driv-

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ers from staging a roads pro-test, they said that the action was "inevitable" unless the Government was prepared to soften the impact of the taxes by offering rebates to lorry drivers. The protest is planned to take place near Park Lane on Monday, the day before Dr Reid meets hauliers.

British vehicle taxes and duty on diesel are the highest in Europe and lorry drivers claim they are losing business to overseas firms with lower operating costs.

Dr Reid used a Tory-in-spired debate in the Commons to try to defuse Tory accusa-tions that the Government was "taxing motorists off the road". He said: To suggest that nothing was done in the Budget to assist haulage firms is a grotesque misrepresentaion of the facts."

Gillian Shephard, the Shadow Transport Secretary, accused the Chancellor of "using motorists as a private piggy bank". The Tories said that it was time to end the annual fuel tax escalator, which they introduced. 'The whole point

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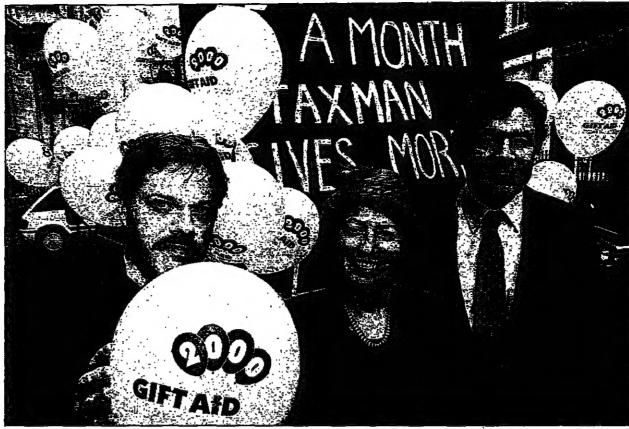
communication experts

of an escalator is that when you get to the top, you get off," Bernard Jenkin, the transport spokesman, said. The Government argues

that running a company with 50 lorries would cost an extra E425,000 in France, E592,000 in Holland and £820,000 in Belgium. However, haulage industry figures suggest that the cost of operating a 40-tonne lor-ry in Britain is £28,000 a year, and £10,000 in France.

Frank Stears, a haulier whose splinter protest group TransAction is organising Monday's protest, said: 'There will be so many of us that traffic will come to a halt. We want the Government to start taking notice of us." The London protest will fol-

low a string of demonstrations in major cities and at ports. Dan Hodges, of the Road Haulage Association, said: We cannot support any action that is either illegal or inconveniences the public. But the Government must give an indication that there will be a genuine review of the draconian rates of taxation."



Eddie Izzard, Patricia Hewitt, the Economic Secretary, and Gordon Brown at the Gift Aid launch yesterday

Charity bonus targets young adults

By ALEXANDRA FREAN SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CAMPAIGN to encourage more young adults to make regular donations to charity was opened yesterday by the Chancellor Gordon Brown and the comedian Eddie Izzard.

Advertisements for the Gift Aid 2000 scheme, which provides tax relief on donations to Third World charities, will appear on beer mats and cinema tickets and will be backed up by a series of televi-

sion commercials featuring Izzard. The £4 million campaign is aimed primarily at 18 to 34 year olds, identified as the group most likely to want to give to charity and most interested in tax-efficient ways of doing so.

The campaign follows recent figures published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations showing that individual donations to charity have fallen by nearly a third in the past five years. encourage donations to education and

anti-poverty projects in the world's 80 poorest countries. The Government will make a donation of £30 for every £100 that individuals give to charities working. in this area. The minimum donation was reduced from £250 to £100 in last year's Budget and can be made as a lump sum or in small donations.

☐ Donors can join the scheme by calling 0845 075 2000 or by accessing the website www.giftaid2000.org.uk, where more incan be found.

peers voted to give privately treated patients the same regu-

ECO-warriors must be stopped from building forti-fied protest sites before they be-

come the scene of a trapic acci-dent, a Flome Office report warns today.

Unless new trespass laws create fresh criminal or civil powers the increasing sophistication of "defences" built at contentious sites will inevitably lead to serious injury to bailiffs, police or protesters, ac-cording to the study from the inspectorate of constabulary.

safety may

put paid

to protests

By STEWART TENDLER

CRIME CORRESPONDENT

The report Keeping the Peace examines current police readiness for disorder and warns that the threat of rioning has broadened from inner city unrest to "single cause pro-tests" such as animal rights and environmental issues

which can cost millions. The two-year battle over the Newbury bypass in Thames Valley cost £18 million. Demonstrations against the export of live animals cost Essex and Sussex police £6 million.

Keith Povey author of the re-port and one of the Home Of-fice inspectors, warns that society will have to consider the balance between the rights of individuals to peaceful protest and their responsibilities as

Fears over | Howe says Hague stance on Europe could cost election

BY ROLAND WATSON, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD HOWE of Aberavon said last night that William Hague's stance over the single currency could cost the Tories the next election. The former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary said: "We have locked ourselves into a policy position from which

there is no escape." His comments, to be broad-cast on BBC Wales on Sunday, appeared to be a clear breach of the Tory ruce on Europe. Mr Hague had agreed with the party's pro-Europeans to leave the issue of the euro in the background until after hune's European elections. June's European elections.

But to add insult to injury. Lord Howe added that Ken-neth Clarke should have succeeded John Major as party leader. His criticism came as Mr Hague today tries to get onto the front foot over Europe

and the crisis in Brussels.

The Tory leader will insist that none of the 20 European Commissioners who stepped down on Monday should be allowed to return to office. Tony Blair is supporting the rein-statement of both Britain's Commissioners, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock. Mr Hague also hardened the Tories' stance on the issue of sixfigure payoffs due to the Commissioners, saying that none should receive them because even those not named in the

fraud report had been tainted. Downing Street yesterday gave a strong nudge to the chances of Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, succeeding Jacques Santer as the Commission President. The Prime Minister's offi-

cial spokesman said: "The Prime Minister is on record as someone who has a very good friendship with Prodi, but he also respects him as someone with considerable ability."

Bernard Connolly, page 22 Letters, page 23



Howe said Tories were "locked in" over Europe

Jim Wallace, the Scottish

Lib Dem leader, said that Scot-

latory safeguards as those in NHS hospitals. Peers voted 161-113 in favour of a Tory amendment during the detailed report stage of the Health Bill, which scraps GP fundholding. The defeat will turned in the Commons.

Customs boost

More than 100 extra Customs and Excise officers will be deployed from the start of next month to combat alcohol and tobacco smuggling, the Gov-ernment said. An estimated £1 billion tax is lost each year to tobacco smuggling. Lord McIntosh of Haringey said at Question Time that the frontline staff would be financed by £35 million from the spending review last July.

Bishop in court •

An Anglican bishop has appeared in court on a charge of drink driving. The Right Rev Douglas Cameron, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles in the Scottish Episcopal church, made no plea when he appeared be-fore Sheriff Colin McKay in Oban Sheriff Court. The offence is alleged to have happened a month ago, on the road to Tyndrum from Oban. The case continues on Monday.

Missing mother

The husband of a woman who disappeared ten days ago appealed for information yesterday as police began searching the Scottish Highlands where her car was found abandoned hundreds of miles from their Derby home. Anne Ball hired the car but it was found dumped on Monday. She has no connections with the area and police are baffled by her disappearance.

Scots colleges may introduce fees form has the support of the National Union of Students.

BY JASON ALLARDYCE SCUTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

STUDENTS from England and Wales may have to pay \$1,000-a-year tuition fees at Scottish universities while Scots study for free.

The Scottish Liberal Democrass has pledged to abolish the fees for students living in Scotland, bringing them into line with the policy of Scots Tories and the SNP.

Because Labour is unlikely to win overall control of the Scottish parliament on May 6, the opposition parties are likely to be able to vote out the controversial fees in the first year of the parliament.

All three parties are also committed to eliminating the fourth-year fee which is levied on English, Welsh and Northern Irish students who come to Scotland for four-year degree courses. The educational re-

land's economic prosperity in the next century depended on it being a world leader in education. "To achieve this, Scotland's young people must be

INSIDE SECTION 2 What's gone wrong with Brookside? Phil Reamond englishes

educated to the highest level." Like the SNP, the Lib Dems believe that scrapping fees can be paid for by making savings in the £14 billion Scottish funding block. However, both are prepared to raise income tax by lp to finance the move.

Susan Deacon, Labour's Scottish education spokes woman, said the announce ment showed that only Labour could be trusted not to make Scotland the most highly taxed part of Britian.

She said that Labour was increasing access and opportunity for Scots students with an extra £241 million over three years to fund 42,000 more places.

eady to poach ecord

non accuse Bangladesh Mice of rap

Caterer ready to poach record

A FORMER caterer from Wiltshire looks set to beat Richard Branson to his dream of circumnavigating the globe in a

balloon:
Brian Jones, 51, has piloted the Breitling Orbiter 3 to within one day of the finishing line. Yesterday he was willing his craft onwards as it approached the Atlantic despensive short of fuel

ethnic

rations

ately short of fuel.

To win one of the last great aviation prizes, he and his Swiss co-pilot, Bertrand Piccard, 41, must circle the globe, crossing the same meridian twice. They do not have to return to the Swiss Ales, force turn to the Swiss Alps, from where they set out 18 days ago. Because they initially diverted to West Africa in order to double back on themselves and ble back on themselves and catch the best jet streams going over China, they can win by landing in Mauritania. They are due to reach this finish line of 9.27 degrees west tomorrow night, friday. The Federation Aeronautique Internationale, the body regulating the challenge, also

regulating the challenge, also stipulates a minimum distance - more than 18,000 miles — to stop balloons flying a little circle over the North or South Poles.

Mr Jones and M Piccard went further than this after breaking the record for the longest distance flight last weekend. If they continue to this afternoon, they will break the record for the longest time a balloon has spent in the air.

The flight has taken its toll, and yesterday both exhausted pilots started taking oxygen af-ter minor breathing problems. They feel ill and cold, and M Piccard, the grandson of Au-guste Piccard, who invented control centre in Geneva yes terday by sounding almost incoherent with fatigue.

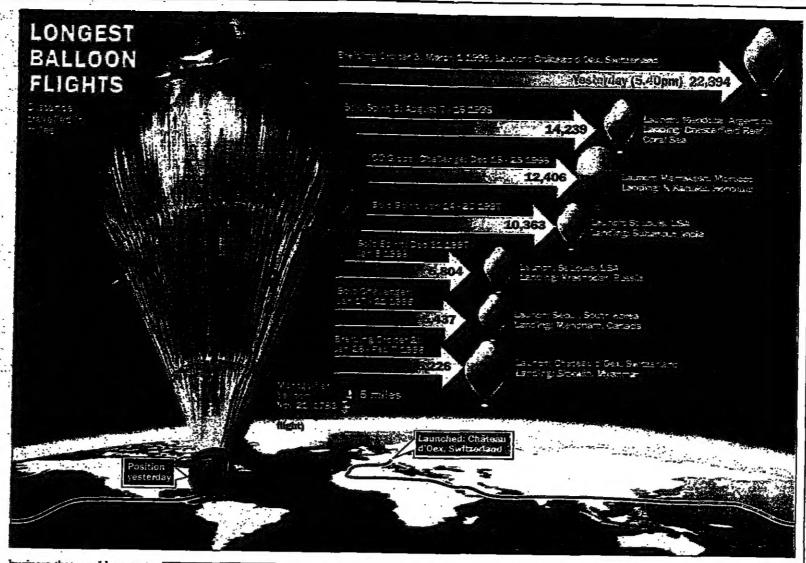
Joanna Jones, Mr Jones's wife, said in Geneva that conditions inside the 6ft by 10ft capsul were grim. They have no one to sound off to and it's a great strain. Hopefully it should get better now they can smell the stable."

By finishing they will not only earn a \$1 million prize put forward by Anheuser-Busch, the makers of Budweiser beer, but the envy of Richard Branson and their other rivals. Mr Branson said that he could identify with their feelings of tiredness and ela-tion. "It looks very much like they're going to make it." he said. "But no one must forget said. But no one must lorger that the most dangerous part of the flight is landing a giant balloon without injury, especially as the pilots will be very tired and low on fuel."

The Virgin tycoon became obsessed with the challenge nearly ten years ago when he became the first to cross the Atlantic in a hot air balloon. Since then he has risked his life and a sizeable part of his fortune on four failed attempts £3 million a time.

By contrast, Mr Jones, a grandiather of three from Devizes, was plucked out of obscurity to enter the competition in November. He had been part of the Breitling support team, and when the Brit-ish pilot. Anthony Brown, dropped out at the last mo-ment due to personality clash-es with the mercurial M Picca-rd, he stepped in.

Mr Jones is a very different personality to Mr Branson. guste Piccard, who invented like Mr. Branson, he left best mates. It's nailbiting to the pressurised cabin used in school at 17, but while the watch him. But my overall feel-modern balloons, alarmed the young entrepreneur founded a ing is that they must be safe."



business that would go on to run a transatlantic airline, Mr Jones went into the RAF and then a catering business.

In 1986 he was at a festival involving Cameron balloons in Bristol, took one flight and was hooked. He immediately hought his own balloon from Cameron, who went on to build the Breitling craft. It became an all-consuming

passion, and when his busi-ness suffered during the recession two years later, he gave it up to found his own ballooning company, becoming an in-structor and an examiner. "He is not an adventurer, he's professional pilot who approaches things in a judged manner," Mrs Jones said.

Andy Elson, whose Cable and Wireless balloon came down near Japan while com-peting with the Breitling bal-loon, empathised with the strain in the capsule. "Brian is a lovely bloke and one of my

Men who rose to the challenge

Steve Fossett American millionaire Estimated cost to Fossett. 25 million Richard Brasson and Per Lindstrand

er and lost balloon.

Estimated cost to Virgin: £8 million One flight Total estimated cost to ICO Global

Communications: £3 million

Three flights (with Wim Verstraeten, Andy Elson and Brian Jones respectively) Estimated cost to Breitling £9 million Andy Elson and Colin Presco Two British belloonists

Explorer abandons lone trek in Arctic

BY JOANNA BALE

A BRITISH adventurer yes-terday abandoned his attempt to complete the last great Arctic challenge, a solo unassisted trek to the

geomagnetic North Pole.
David Hempleman-Adams, 42, was due to be rescued from Canon Fiord, an iceshelf close to Ellesmere Island last night, after sending a radio message that he was having difficulties with his sledge and skis.

Mr Hempleman-Ad-ams, of Box, near Cor-sham, Wiltshire, who had walked at least 30 miles since March 8, had been hoping to complete the 250-mile trek across mountains, ravines and moving ice in 20 days, without the aid of dogs, snowmobiles or air supplies. He said: "I have complet-

ed enough solo adventures and I have taken a decision that this will be the last - it is not fair on my family."

Backroom worker who ensures seamless uplift

By Simon de Bruxelles SOUTH-WEST CORRESPONDENT

ONE slipped stitch and it would be shower curtains for the Breitling Orbiter. But Eileen Davies, who spent eight weeks sewing the 1808-high balloon together, is confident her seams will hold.

As the vast diaphanous envelope floats towards the finishing line, excitement is ris-ing back at the Cameron Balloon factory in Bristol.

Every day as they arrive for work anxious staff stop to check the overnight progress reports pinned to the noticeboard. They know their handi-work is being put to the ulti-mate test, especially Miss Jones, who triple-stitched each seam before it was sealed to prevent any of the precious helium leaking out. "We'll have a party if they make it," said Miss Davies, 26. "I always check the map in

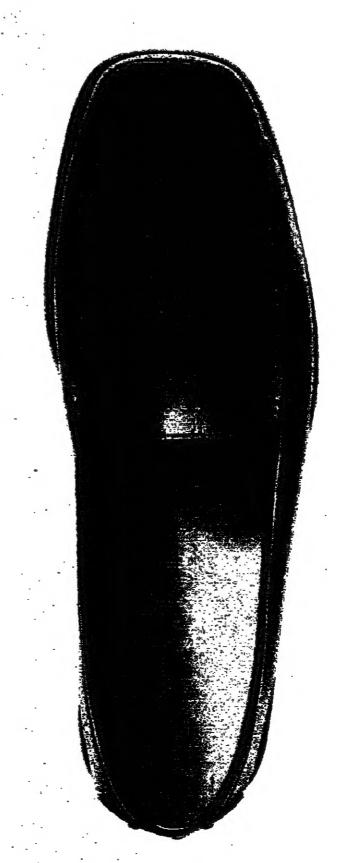


Eileen Davies: only been up in balloon once

the morning and watch the news when I get home to find out how they're doing." Miss Davies, who has worked for the Bristol-based company's "gas" department for eight years, has only been up in a balloon once. She says the experience was "all right" but she would not want to swap places with the pilots of the Breitling Orbiter.

Don Cameron, 59, the man who built Britain's first modem hot air balloon in the 1960s, and his team designed and built three of the four recent round the world challengers, including the Cable and Wireless balloon which broke the record for the longest flight last month before being forced to ditch in the sea off Japan. Only Richard Branson's pilot, Per Lindstrand, preferred to build his own.

Mr Cameron described the millionaire businessman's balloon as large but unsophisticated compared with the latest of the three Breitling Orbiters. He said: "We think Branson ran out of fuel somewhere over China so he never really had a hope of making it, though there is enough still enough rivalry in the attempt that he wouldn't tell us that."



Briton accuses Bangladesh police of rape

FROM AHMED FAZL IN DHAKA AND STEPHEN FARRELL Bangladesh, made no formal

A BRITISH woman has claimed that she was raped by police in Bangladesh when she went to report a theft.

The tourist, who has not been named, said she was raped by four officers at a police station in the capital, Dhaka, some months ago. Human rights lawyers

claim that police regularly at-tack women in custody. The Foreign Office last night refused to discuss the case, but a spokesman reiterated advice by the British Consul in Dhaka that "women should not go into police stations or

similar agencies". The Foreign Office's official travel advice, last updated yesterday, does not mention rape, but says visitors should take extra care and adds: "There have been reports of police abusing their authority. Ar-range to be accompanied to the police station when reporting incidents,"

The woman, who has left

British High Commission said yesterday that the incident was considered serious and they had written to the Interior Ministry to express concern. Under a law dating from the days of the Raj, Bangladeshi police can put any woman be-hind bars under the pretext of

complaint and no charges were brought. Officials at the

giving her safe custody". Local newspapers have reported many incidents of rape and deaths in safe custody. Last year a five-year-old girl was allegedly raped in a police

mess inside the Chief Metropolitan Magistrates' Court complex in Dhaka. Aid workers say abandoned women. prostitutes and homeless children are particular targets of sexual abuse.

The main opposition Bangla-desh Nationalist Party used the attack to condemn the secular Government of the Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina.

Father of Julie Ward tells court of last days

JOHN WARD's ll-year cru-sade to find the killer of his daughter, Julie, entered a gruelling stage yesterday when he appeared in a Nairobi court to face Simon ole Makallah, the warden who led him to Julie's dismembered and burned re-

Mr Ward, who has spent more than £300,000 in a quest which began in 1988 when the Kenyan authorities first claimed Julie had been killed by wild animals in the Masai Mara Reserve

Yesterday he told the court of the day when he heard that Julie, 28, had gone missing. Mr Ward said that Julie had been a "quiet girl, a gentle per-

"She avoided trouble where possible and she had a happy disposition. One of her hobbies was photograph." Mr Ward recalled that his daughter, went to the Masai Mara to photograph the annual inigration of the wildebeest.

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Caterers given respite over GM labelling

SHOPS and supermarkets face fines of up to £5,000 from today if they fail to label any food which contains genetically modified soya and maize.

However, the country's 125,000 restaurants, fast-food outlets, cafes, pizza chains and hot-dog stands have until Sep-tember 19 before they must know the GM contents of the dishes they serve. Menus will not have to list the GM content of every dish on offer. Instead notices will be on display on premises if any food contains

Customers will have to ask waiters and waitresses for specific information about dishes which contain a GM product. Restaurants will not be able to get away with "defensive labelling" saying that food "may contain" GM products. Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, said: "Forget may contain'. We are not in the business of 'may contain'. It's got to say genetically modified or genetic modification. The EU directive states 'does con-

"What we are asking restaurants to do is to be in a position so that if a customer asks if there are GM ingredients to know, not to say 'I will check and find out next week". " GM tomato paste is exclud-

ed from the new law but Mr Rooker said that premises had "a moral obligation" to inform customers if it was used.

He suggested that Zeneca's tomato paste could also soon be covered by further new laws which would also be extended to the GM content of additives and flavourings. The Government would also have to decide soon if a GM-produced tomato by Zeneca could be approved for sale.

The six-month gap for catering companies will allow staff to be trained to answer queries and will give them time to check upon their own supplies and if their ingredients contained GM soya or maize, Mr Rooker said. If mistakes were made, the prosecution would be against the catering owners or management and not the table staff.

The new laws will be enforced by environmental health officers but it is understood they intend to "go genthy" until people understand the requirements. The new laws will not apply to ingredients such as the emulsifier lecithin and cooking oils. Al-



From today, shops and supermarkets face a £5,000 fine for failing to label GM foods

though these products are derived from the GM process they contain no GM protein and so any meal cooked in GM soya oil or a chocolate biscuit can be labelled GM-free.

Most supermarkets in Britain have already introduced their own GM labels and most have also included GM derivatives not covered by the new laws. Some retailers have also banned GM ingredients in

their own-brand products. Catering companies said that the new laws were unworkable and unenforceable. Michael Gotliebb, director of

said: "Our members have spent a lot of money designing and printing menus and these may have to be changed to accommodate the new rules. "Also, most of our suppliers don't have a clue whether or

the Restaurants Association,

not their products contain GMs so how can they tell restaurateurs in the first place." He called on the Government to say if the food was

safe: "If they are not they should not be produced and if they are then the Government should stick to its guns and not bow to idiotic pressure. They seem to be taking the easy route out."

The new laws were also described as totally inadequate by environmental groups who believed the Government had "conned" the public and put the burden on small businessmen instead of large compa-

mes such as Monsanto. Friends of the Earth, which has called for a five year ban on GM foods, said: "The reality is that the public will still be eating unlabelled food containing GM ingredients even after

this law is passed."

Lord Sainsbury, the Science and Technology Minister, has met the director of a company involved in genetically modified food research in which he had an interest "a number of times" the Trade and Industry Secretary said yesterday.

Stephen Byers said in a Commons written reply: "I understand that he has met with Christopher Stone of Diatech Ltd on a number of times on a personal basis but on no occasion were any aspects of the work or investments of any of the companies placed in the blind trust discussed."

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "How can the public believe that this minister is inde-pendently minded on GM foods and crops?"

Enforcement is likely to be costly and slow

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ENFORCING the food labelling regulations is likely to prove an expensive operation for trading standards officers. Tests exist for detecting whether foods contain genetically modified ingedients but

they cost El00 to E200 a time and take ten days. At present ratories in Britain are equipped to carry them out.

One of the laboratories, at Worcestershire County Council, tested 200 food products for GM soya last autumn and found that about 60 contained some. Bob Stevens, a public analyst who works for the council, said that although they had been busy they had not yet had to turn away work. That could change if the new regulations produced a string of complaints to trading officers and they needed to be

investigated.
The Food and Drink Federation, which welcomed the announcement by Jeff Rooker. says that it now urgently needs' clarification from the European Commission over the details of the regulations.

in particular, an FDF spokesman said, the EC needed to set a threshold below which foods would count as GM-free. That was likely to be set well below I per cent and . add to the problems of testing.

"We can test for GM ingredients and say whether they are there or not but it is difficult to say how much is there" he said. "In any case, people who want to avoid GM foods will want to ensure that there is none there, not that it falls below an arbitrary threshold."

cised the regulations for excluding foods that are derived from GM crops but which no longer contain any evidence of it. Examples include oils prepared from soya beans, which contain no proteins, and le-cithins (emulsifiers made from

Mr Rooker argues that labelling such foods would be misleading because the accuracy of the labels could never be checked. But consumers who object to GM foods on moral rather than safety grounds, as some do, are unlikely to be satisfied by that awser.

Pete Riley of Friends of the Earth declared that the regulations were worthless because; they were "built on sand". Until soya and maize entering the country was segregated into GM and non-GM, he said. more and more foods would contain GM ingredients. "All this means is that UK food manufacturers and hot-dog. men will pay the costs im-posed on us by unscrupulous

Firms accused of ignoring fears

BY NIGEL HAWKES

THE companies behind the genetically modified crop revolution have been accused by a senior government adviser of a "lamentable lack of consideration" for consumer and

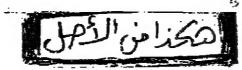
industry concerns.
Professor John Beringer, chairman of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, which advises the Government on whether it is safe to plant GM crops, said. in the foreword to committee's annual report that the companies had picked the wrong products to pioneer GM tech-nology and had failed to carry

the public with them. "I am very disappointed that, on the whole, the large biotechnology companies have displayed a lamentable lack of consideration for the feelings of the general public and concerns of the food industries that depend upon the commodity crops that are profirst fruits of a new and poten-tially very frightening technol-ogy should have been berbicide tolerant crops and crops carrying genes that con-

clinical antibiotics. While I believe that GM crops on the market presently pose no greater threat to huthan the traditional varieties from which they are derived. it is not surprising that this view is not taken by many groups that claim to represent public opinion."

In a written submission to the Commons Science and Technology Committee, Professor Beringer accessed the European Commission of harfdling applications to market GM products in an "extraordinarily inefficient way, lead ing to long delays in getting i new processes approved and engendering a climate u which the public perceives there are serious risks.

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Angels are out but Onan is in, says Vatican

is diluting its belief in the existence of angels and strengthen-ing as opposition to the death penalty. In addition, it says that masturbation need not al-

mays be regarded as a sin.
The Vatican has made the changes in the revised edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church — the book that sets down the principals of the Roman Catholic religion in a question and answer form. Because of the growth in "an-

gelology and its association with New Age beliefs, the Church is reducing its emphasis on the existence of angels, it has ejected some, although not all, from the Catechism.

Christian teaching on matur-bation has generally europha-sised the sinfulness of the prac-tice, and the Vatican maintains that it is "an instrinsically and gravely disordered action". Priests in the confessional often hear tormented Catholics who fear eternal damna-tion because they believe masturbation to be a mortal sin.

In the revised Catechism,
while the Church does not endorse masturbation, it argues that psychological factors such as anxiety and maturity re-

duce moral culpability "to a Father Terence Phipps, lecturer in moral theology at Allen Hall, a leading seminary in London, said: Masturbation has always been regarded as a grave matter." Catholics had often interpeted this to mean it was a mortal sin. He said: said: There are pability and can even take it

nentis

Ruth Gledbill and Edward

Welsh report on the changes of

emphasis in the new Catechism

away completely. There are cases of almost compulsive action in that area. People get very worried because they think it is a mortal sin." The revised edition of the Catechism made it "absolutely clear" that

it need not be sinful.

When teaching moral theology, he said, he did not lay great emphasis on the story of Onan, who was struck down and slain by God "for spilling his seed on the ground". "It produces scriptural resonances of one touch and a thunderbolt. It is not the mechanical act of spilling the seed that is wrong, but the turning in on

He added: "The act itself is still regarded as unsatisfactory. But the culpability of the agent is considerably dimin-ished. We are not saying, fine, go ahead and enjoy your-selves. It is still objectively wrong, but subjectively it might not always be simiul."

In another important change that is certain to be controversial, especially in America, the Vatican has deemed that cases where the death penalty can be justified are "practi-cally non-existent". The Cate-



Father MacAulay told parishioners he was not likely to return after a study trip abroad

Shand Kydd's priest books into clinic

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Roman Catholic priest near by on Seil Island and who comforted Frances Shand Kydd when her daughworships at St Columba's Ca-thedral, turned to Father ter, Diana, Princess of Wales, died has been booked into an addiction clinic in the United

Father Sean MacAulay, 45, left St Columba's Cathedral in Oban, Argyll, on Wednesday to fly to the St Luke Institute in Maryland, which specialis-es in treating priests with depression, sexual problems and addictions, including drink problems.

He took over as parish ad-ministrator in the wake of the scandal surrounding Roddy Wright, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, who eloped with Kathleen MacPhee, a divorced mother of three, in the summer of 996. It also emerged that Mr Wright, 58, had a teenage son by an earlier mistress. The former Bishop and Mrs MacPhee, 43, have since married and live in Lancashire. When the Princess died Mrs Shand Kydd, who lives

MacAulay for support.

She had acted on occasions as his temporary housekeeper. Father MacAulay said at the time: "I turned on the television and saw reports of the accident. I immediately phoned Frances and she just said 'Diana is dead'." In the days

that followed he was a regular

visitor at her home. Father MacAulay, a priest for 20 years, told his parishioners at the weekend that he would be leaving to attend a study trip abroad for a month and was unlikely to return.

He said the move had come "quite suddenly" and apologised for any upset he may have caused. Sources said gos-sip had been circulating in the small fishing village on the West Coast of Scotland for some time about his personal life. He was seen drinking regularly in a local bar. The Church refused to confirm the

Hume urges more trust in teachers

BY RUTH GLEDHILL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

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the constant public pillorying" of teachers. They needed trust placed in them, he said. The Archbishop of Westminster added that pride in the profession and respect for teachers had to be rebuilt. It should be as hard to enter teacher training college as medical school. He cited low pay as a reason why more young people did not enter teaching as a career.

Cardinal Hume told a conference organised by the Teacher Training Agency that

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day, ending with a

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CARDINAL Basil Hume ing profession was, along with

ed degenerative threatening society's future. law and medicine in terms of status and reward. Instead, teachers were often bearing the brunt, along with parents. of a "culture of contempt".

He was speaking as a survey in the Catholic Herald shows that many Roman Catholic head teachers are finding it difficult to recruit Catholic teachers to their schools. One head said that the shortage was due to a "lack of Catholics with quality teaching skills".

gardens. Arrive back in

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chism aroused controversy when it was published in 1994 because of its acknowledge-

a mitigating paragraph to its catechetical teaching. It states:

"Today, in fact, as a conse-

quence of the possibilities which the state has for effec-

fively preventing crime, by ren-dering one who has commit-

ted an offence incapable of do-

ing harm - without definitive-

ly taking away from him the

possibility of redeeming him-

self — the cases in which the ex-

ecution of the offender is an ab-

solute necessity are very rare, if not practically non-existent."

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Families split over blame for heart deaths

SPECTATORS wept in the public gallery yesterday as the leaders of two opposing groups of parents told the Bristol heart surgery inquiry how their daughters died after

Malcolm Curnow, a police-man from Cullumpton, Dev-on, was convinced after his daughter Verity died that Janardan Dhasmana, a surgeon at Bristol Royal Infirmary, was to blame.

Michelle Cummings, from Bristol, felt that everything had been done for her daugh-ter Charlotte by James Wisheart, the same surgeon who had saved her husband's

life 25 years ago.
Mr Curnow, spokesman for the Bristol Heart Children's Action Group, which led the campaign for the inquiry, said that his consent for the operation on his daughter in September, 1990, was fraudulently obtained because he was told by Mr Dhasmana that the procedure was simple, routine and uncomplicated.

He did not know that medical notes said that his ninemonth-old daughter was so ill she might need a heart-lung transplant and was horrifed after the operation when he saw his baby ashen-faced and near death in the recovery

Rob, was operated on by Mr

Wisheart, who repaired two holes in his heart and en-

larged a narrow artery below

it. He is now fit and well, and Mrs Cummings said that, without Mr Wisheart, he

would not be alive to have fathered her two other chil-

The inquiry was set up after the General Medical Council

carried out an investigation into the deaths of 29 children

at the hospital during opera-tions by the two surgeons.

Both surgeons were cen-sured by the GMC last June for continuing to operate on behing many through the leave.

babies even though they knew

that too many were dying. Mr Wisheart was struck off the

medical register and Mr Dhas-

man was suspended from operating on children and lost

his job. He is now asking an

industrial tribunal to reinstate

John Roylance, the chief ex-ecutive of the hospital, has also been struck off the regis-

ter for failing to stop the opera-

The inquiry continues.

She died four days later. Mr Dhasmana apologised to him and admitted that there were unexpected complications in carrying out the procedure to

replace an artery with a tube.

Mrs Cummings, spokesman for the Bristol Surgeons' Support Group, wept as she told how her daughter died in her arms in February 1989, drowning in her blood as her damaged valves gave out. Charlotte was two years old and had been cared for by Mr Dhasmana and Mr Wisheart. She described Mr Wisheam

as very "gentle and sensitive" and said she believed that he had given her daughter the best possible care. After Charlotte died, Mrs Cummings met Mr Dhasma-

na in the corridor: "He gave me a big hug and expressed his sorrow at our loss. He is an incredibly genuine and sensi-

Mrs Cummings's husband.



Michelle Cummings: felt everything was done for her daughter

Huge rise in claims against family doctors @

FAMILY doctors are 13 times more likely to be successfully sued by their patients than they were ten years ago and 33 times more likely to face spurious legal action, according to the Medical Protection Society, which represents 45 per cent of GPs in Britain.

In 1989 there were 38 claims against GPs, but last year this figure rose to 500. Over the same period the size of settlements for medical negligence in cases involving GPs rose steeply. The highest settlement in 1989 was £777,000 while last year if was El.675,000.

Many of the cases are brought on legal aid and later abandoned when it becomes clear there is no case against the GP. The Medical Protection Society has spent almost £7 million over the past five years on cases that were subsequently dropped — money which cannot be recovered. "The figures show that GPs

face an ever growing risk of having to defend themselves against lawsuits," John Hickey, medical director of the society, said. "In addition to those

cases which are successfully brought against GPs, we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of failed legal

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Nurse tells why she blew whistle

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A NURSE who reported a doctor to police said yesterday that an elderly woman died in his care looking like a victim of Belsen.

Mary Ormerod, 85, a wid-ow who had suffered several high-protein supplement Fre-subin on the orders of Ken Taylor. She died 58 days later at Oxford House nursing home, Preston, weighing 3st 12lb. Rachel Towers, an agency nurse, alerted police and the local health authority within hours of laying out the body on August 26, 1995.

Miss Towers told the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council: She looked like someone from pictures I have seen of Holocaust and the

Miss Towers said that she went to see Mrs Ormerod after care assistants voiced concern. "It was immediately apparent to me that she was emaciated and in a weakened



state. I would describe the situation with which I was confronted as unthinkable. I felt that the issue was one of eathernasia and I resolved that it would not have any part in it."

Several nurses are under

Dr Taylor, 51, denies seri-ous professional misconduct.



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investigation by their govern ing body for allegedly break-ing their code of practice by failing to comply with a doc-

The hearing continues.



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Sir Cliff's plea to millennium stars

SIR CLIFF RICHARD called yesterday to follow his lead and to devote their earnings in the closing hours of the millenmum to charity.

STABLE TO 1999

n claims

against

family

doctors

Amouncing that he is organ-ising a concert in Birmingham on New Year's Eve for Chil-dren's Promise, an affiliation of seven children's charities. Sir Cliff said: "I hope that people will not up this country off because it's the millennium. I don't think we should capital-

"All I know is that I'm not going to do that. I'm going to do something which is posi-tive. It's good for the nation not everyone is on the take that

The pop singer told a press conference at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham where he is holding ten concerts in the run-up to the millennium: "I come from a privileged position, I've made a lot of money and I have given a Björk is leaving her home in lot away. I intend to continue West London for her real

The singer's call for concerts to aid charity may be too late, report Claudia Joseph and Alex O'Connell

concert in the Millermium Dome, but organisers say they

are still arranging the final

receive £9 million for a millen-nium concert and the Rolling

Stones are expected to receive

E6.25 million, although a book-

ing has not been confirmed.

Celine Dion is planning a con-

So far the only group to offer a free concert is East 17. The

band's members, Terry Cold-well and John Hendy, have pledged a concert if the Gov-

ernment spends the £1.6 bil-lion Millennium Fund on housing the homeless.

Sir Cliff said that he had

hoped to take part in the cele-

brations at the Dome but had

not been invited. He is now

holding a concert on Decem-

cert in Montreal

ne-up. Neil Diamond is forecast to

is always a tough thing to ask, but there are a lot of good hearts in showbiz and I trust they will be inspired by the

It may be too late for Sir Cliff to move some showbiz hearts. Elton John has confirmed a booking in Las Vegas with Tina Turner on the eve of the millennium for an undisclosed sum. Barbra Streisand is said to have made a £13.5 million deal for a concert in the same city on the same

night. Tickets will cost £1,250. David Bowie will perform at a £133 to £199-a-head concert in eastern New Zealand. The venue will be one of the first to see the dawn break on Janu-

home in Iceland, where she "I am asking people to do will perform in the capital, something for nothing which Reykjavik. The Spice Girls

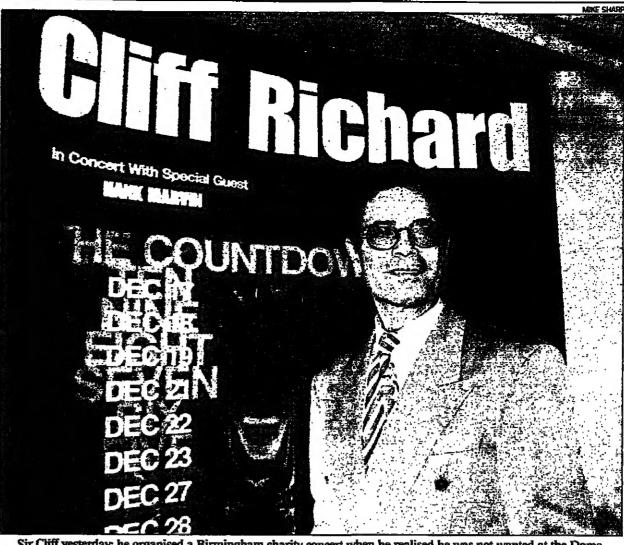
Hank Marvin will fly in from Australia to appear as a guest. Sir Cliff said: "I've always and Robbie Williams are said to have been signed up for a

jokingly said to my friends that when it comes to the business of passing time, I'm Father Time himself when it comes to pop-rock. I've been around five decades. I thought, if there's a show they' re bound to ask me, so I hung on, but now I realise they haven't got anything like that planned anyway. So I thought if they are not going to have one, I shall do one on my

tickets selling at £75 and £100.

By midday yesterday Bir-ingham arena had sold 50,000 tickets, costing £1.5 miltion, for his ten concerts. The money to be raised by the mil-lennium concert for Children's Promise is estimated at £1 mil-

Tony Blair said: "I whole hearted endorse Sir Cliff's support for this project and should like to thank him for giving so generously of his services and for encouraging



Sir Cliff yesterday: he organised a Birmingham charity concert when he realised he was not wanted at the Dome

Find in field is jewel linked to King Alfred

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN EXQUISITE Anglo-Saxon jewel with links to King Al-fred, which a metal-detector enthusiast stumbled across in a Wilishire field, is expected to make more than £300,000 at

David Rylett, S6, a Hamp-shire builder who had never turned up anything of value in his 19 years of metal-detecting discovered the mndencrusted rock crystal of the late 5th or 6th century within a 9th century gold setting on \$1 Valentine's Day 1977. The jewel is an aestel or



Mr Rylett's find, known as the Wessex Jewel

used to turn the pages of religious manuscripts.

When he unearthed it Mr

Rylett assumed the object was a Victorian fob piece, but decided later to send it to the British Museum. In fact, the aestel is only the fourth of its kind to have been unearthed in Britain: the aestel known as the Alfred Jewel, which bears an inscription "Alfred had me made", is in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, A second is also at Oxford and a third in the British Museum.

Susan Youngs, of the Brit ish Museum, explained that it

est in Salisbury, it was decided that the jewel had been abandoned and that Mr Rylett should be granted ownership. He is giving half the proceeds from the sale to the owner of the field. The jewel will be sold by Christie's South Kensington on April 21

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A portrait of the Duchess of Argyll wearing those pearls

trapped the infamous "headless man" into revealing his role in the scandalous 1963 divorce of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, her biographer says today.

Michael Thornton identifies the man in his forthcoming biography of the late duchess, Argyll versus Argyll, thus solving one of the century's most lurid

mysteries.
The "headless man" featured in a series of photo-graphs that helped the duke to win a divorce. The pictures show the duchess, naked apart from a three-strand string of pearls, and her lover, also naked, in the bathroom of her house in Upper Grosvenor Street, London. She is performing a sex act on him, but the self-set camera has cut off her lover at the neck.

In a letter to The Times to-day, Mr Thornton says that the former Master of the Rolls, who became involved in the case because of its links with his Profumo inquiry, told him of interviewing the main suspect and setting an "ingenious trap". With the help of the police. Denning then established who the headless man was.

Over the years the prime suspect has been the actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr, but other suggestions have included an American businessman and Duncan Sandys, the former The 11th Duke of Argyll suspected more than 80 men of being his wife's lovers.

Mr Thornton says Denning. who died this month at the age



Suspects: Douglas Fairbanks Jr, left, and Duncan Sandys

with regard to it."

of 100, invited him to his home in Hampshire to discuss the case in interviews, which the biographer tape-recorded. Mr Thornton praises Denning's detective skills. "He was more than merely an oustanding judge. He had the razor-sharp mind of a great detective and forensic investigator. These qualities enabled him to set an ingenious trap for the witness in question and, with the help of the police, to establish beyond doubt that he was the

man in the photographs.

ing about his study with an agility astonishing in a man of 88, he pulled out file after file containing highly sensitive material on which his report was based. It revealed that three Conservative ministers had been involved in the Argyll divorce, and that one had felt obliged to offer his resignation from the Cabinet. "Lord Denning showed me

proud of this sleuthing and im-

posed no restrictions upon me

The biographer adds: "Dart-

lieved him to be.

The minister had been the duchess's lover, and had paid the duke a sum of money in consideration for not being cited in the divorce action — a fact which Denning, in his report, held to be without foundation, but only because no evidence could be found in 1963 to substantiate it. Both the duke and the duchess subsequently admitted it was true."

The headless man is said to be considering legal action to prevent the publication of his name. Mr Thornton has said: This is somebody who is still living, who is extremely wellknown and whom I personally admire and have no wish to persecute, particularly at his age. He has denied it and consistently denies it, but I am sorry to say I have found otherwise."

He emphatically denies any suggestion that Denning asked him not to reveal the

The duchess's disgrace

THE secrets of the duchess were laid bare in a four-year legal battle that transfixed the nation and became the costliest case the Scottish Bar had (Michael Harvey.

Ethel Margaret Whigham was born in 1912, the only daughter of a wealthy Scottish industrialist. She was voted

came as famous as a film star, photographed by the press herever she went

She first wed the American golfer Charles Sweeney, but the marriage foundered after ten years. In 1951 she married the Duke of Argyll, chief of clan Campbell and hereditary Master of the Royal House-

deb of the year in 1930 and be-hold in Scotland. The union could not survive her taste for extramarital affairs, however, In 1959 he read one of her di-

aries and, inflamed by its contents, ordered a locksmith to open her writing desk. Inside, with letters and diaries, he found the photographs of the headless man. Wrapped around them were sheets of paper captioned Before, During Oh! and Finished.

been launched only in America and had presumably been brought to Britain by the head-

meekly to accept her fate and counter-sued. The duke said he would name 88 men as his wife's lovers. In the end he cited four lovers - Baron Sigismund von Braun, a senior German diplomat: John Cohane, an American businessman: Peter Combe, former press officer at the Savoy hotel; and an unnamed man.

The duke was photo-graphed nude to prove he was not the headless man. Duncan Sandys, a former Tory

The pictures were taken by a Polaroid camera, which had

The duke began divorce proceedings. The duchess refused

> cause a war wound had left him with scarred legs that were easy to identify.

Eventually the judge, Lord Wheatley, granted the duke a divorce on the ground of the duchess's adultery with Mr

minister, was ruled out be-"She was a highly sexed woman who had ceased to be satisfied with normal relations and had started to indulge in disgusting sexual activities."



In 1963 Lord Denning was working on the Profumo inquiry

She remained part of Losdon society, living for many years in the Grosvenor House Combe. In a devastating 65,000 word judgment, the judge said of the duchess: Hotel and later in a musing home in Pimlico, where she died in 1993, aged 80.

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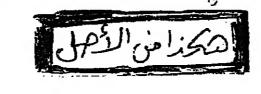
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Clinton joins call to break

Lawyer buried amid anger and accusation

ROSEMARY NELSON, the murdered human rights lawyer, was buried yesterday after a funeral in Lurgan, Co Armagh, that doubled as a massive demonstration of national-

ist anger and solidarity.

The local priest demianded an independent inquiry into Mrs Nelson's death as he addressed thousands of mourners convinced that the police colluded with the loyalist killers of a woman they regarded

as their champion.

The Bishop of Dromore, Dr
Francis Brooks, used his funeral address to beg for calm at a time of rapidly rising tension in Northern Ireland. Overnight riots near by in Portadown had left 38 police officers and four others slightly in-jured. A bus was set on fire in the town's Garvaghy Road yesterday evening and the security forces were prepared for more trouble last night.

Mary McAleese, the Irish

President, David Andrews, Ireland's Foreign Minister, and Paul Murphy, Northern Ire-land's Political Development Minister, attended the funeral. At least three Sinn Fein and nationalist SDLP politicians flew back early from the St Patrick's Day celebrations in

Washington to attend.
The English lawyer Gareth
Pierce, who has defended several prominent republicans including the Birmingham Six. was there and many legal practices and courts across the province closed out of respect for the murdered solicitor.

 One of Mrs Nelson's clients, Brendan McKenna, leader of the nationalist residents of Garvaghy Road, arrived with



The funeral of Rosemary Nelson was a huge show

man rights and said her mur der "struck at the very heart of

flew back from Washington

said everyone's attention had

to be focused on the struggling

peace process.

Mrs Nelson's sons, Christopher, 13, and Gavin, 11, also

spoke briefly at the funeral service. We her family know

her as the best mother, wife,

daughter and sister anyone

could ever have." Gavin said.

of nationalist solidarity, writes Martin Fletcher

an eyepatch conceating an injury inflicted by a police officer during the previous night's trouble. The RUC had intervened to separate crowds of nationalists and loyalists outside an Orange half and were at-tacked with stones and petrol

Mrs Nelson's husband Paul, and her three weeping children led the huge funeral cortege from their home on the edge of Lurgan to St Peter's church. The police remained well out of sight.

They passed the spot where the bomb exploded under Mrs Nelson's BMW moments after she had left for work on Monday and the Tarraghmore primary school, where her daugh-ter, Sarah, 8, was playing when she heard the explosion. The 200 children of the school lined the route and crossed themselves before the hearse.

Black flags and Irish tricolours hung from lampposts. Freshly painted graffiti on the walls proclaimed: "RUC -Armed Wing of Unionis and Disband the RUC". There is no evidence to sugges that the RUC colluded with loyalist bombers but the belief has taken firm root among na-tionalists and the mood of the mourners was one of smoul-

She stood up for Catholics and nationalists and this is what happened to her. They keep putting down people like her who stand up for our rights," one woman mourner said. "We're sick of it. You think peace is coming and this happens," another There would be no IRA less they disarm the RUC first, a taxi driver said.

Father Kieran McPartlan, the local priest, called Mrs Nel-son a tireless worker for hu-

Clinton joins call to break Ulster deadlock

THE leaders of Britain, America and Ireland issued an exraordinary joint statement last night in which they demanded the deadlock over IRA disarmament be overcome to secure the implementation of the Good Friday peace accord by the anniversary of its signing next month.

The statement came as Northern Ireland's leaders left Washington as entrenched as ever over the crucial issue.
"The agreement endorsed by The agreement endorsed by the people last May must be implemented in all its aspects and the remaining difficulties must be resolved ... that is what the people want and we must not fall them," Tony Blair, President Clinton and Rertie Abern declared. Bertie Ahern declared.

"More courage will be needed. But we are nearly there. The prize is very great indeed

and it is now in sight. We have come too far to go back now. Let us finish the task between now and Good Friday. *

After their meetings with Mr Clinton and another meeting with each other, David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president flew home might be resolved. The Unionists remain adamant that the IRA must start disarming before Sinn Fein can be admitted

to government. Gerry Adams insists that is impossible. The mood of my meeting with Gerry Adams was very serious," said Mr. Trimble. " While nothing was resolved, it was a good talk. I was glad to see that Adams this time was seriously thinking about the issue of decommissioning, rather than just repeating his old script. I feel quite optimistic that, in the end, we will over-come this difficulty, because there really is no alternative." He called the IRA's gradual disarmament and dissolution "a question now not of whether, but when."

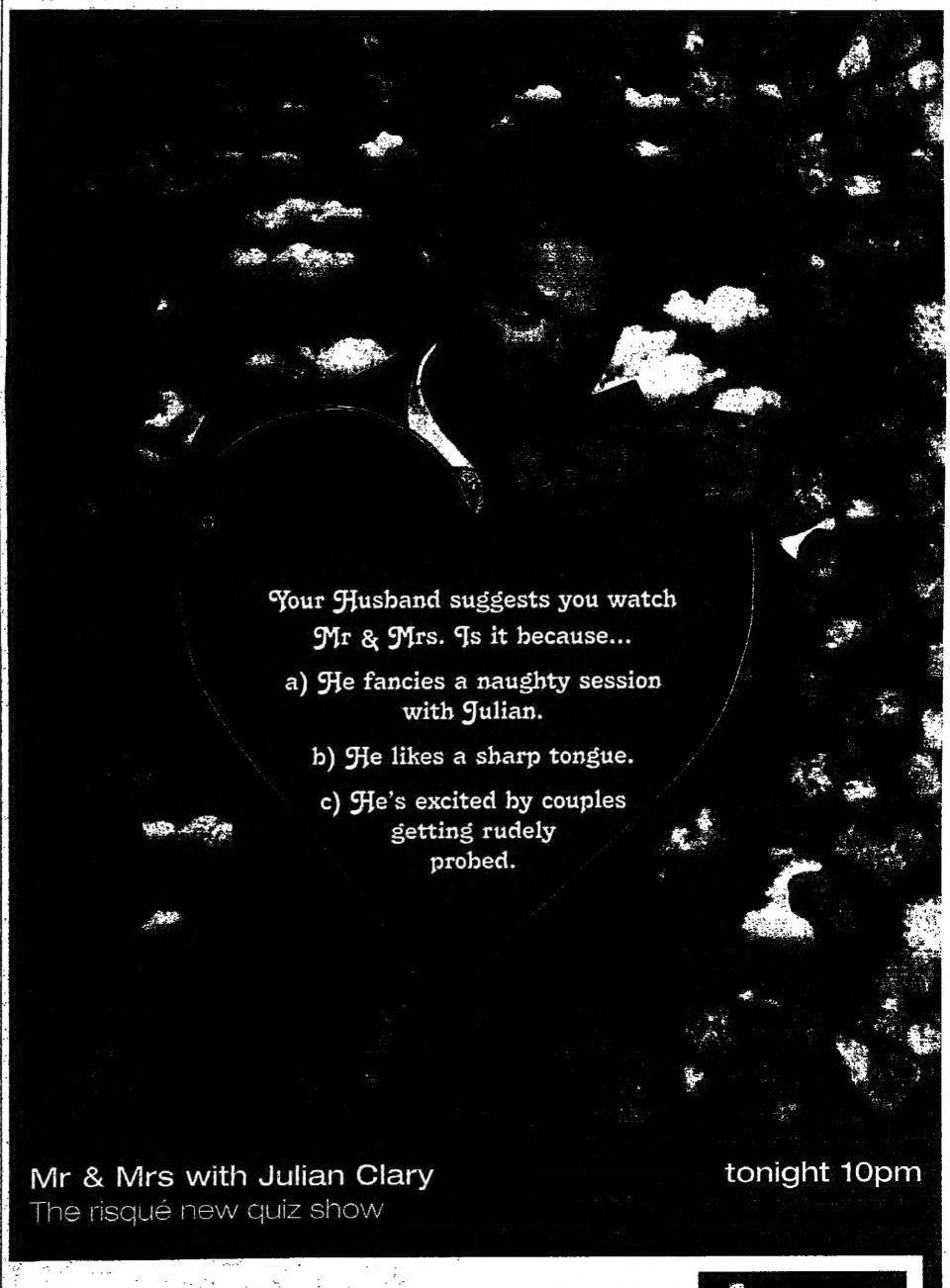
Mr Adams, while calling the meeting "cordial", said that Mr Trimble was being unreasonable. "I have to say that he shows no evidence whatsoever of changing his position and he is making demands on me that I cannot deliver.

Mr Adams said that Mr Trimble had demanded that the IRA stage an "event" at which members would display weapons and explosives that they were handing over.

He urged Mr Trimble to meet nationalists in Portadown in a bid to avoid another tense Orange Order standoff in Drumcree, Mr Trimble suggested while in Washington that he would meet the Garvaghy Road residents coalition, who are part of his constituency, if he knew it would "result in a positive outcome."



Rosemary Nelson's children, Christopher, Sarah and Gavin, follow their mother's coffin with their father, Paul, at the funeral in Lurgan yesterday



tv gets better



A man who tripped over a kerb after drinking at a social club was awarded £500,000 at the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday. Vincent Kemp, 36, fell into the path of a van, receiving fractures to the skull and spine that confine him to a wheelchair.

The judge, Lord Osborne, accepted that it was the design of the kerb that chiefly caused Mr Kemp, of Rosyth, Fife, to stumble. A roads authority ought to foresee that pedestri-ans might be under the influ-ence of drink, the judge said. However, he reduced the original claim against the Scottish Secretary, who has responsi-bility for the road, by £250.000 because of Mr Kemp's contributory negligence.

Arson remand

A man accused of murdering seven people in an arson attack was remanded in custody by Stratford Magistrates' Court, East London. An order was made banning identification of the man, from East London, for fear of public disorder. Four generations died in the fire in Chingford on March 6.

Library reopens

The manuscripts, rare books and music reading rooms ar the British Library are to reopen on Mondays. Wednes-days, Thursdays and Fridays. even though industrial action by book delivery staff continues. The strike, over pay and

did not use them. "European comparisons suggest that Britain leads for screen entertainment culture, but lags behind for IT," the study said.

safe leisure alternatives for

young people, especially teen-agers, outside the home."

interested in computers, and only half as likely as boys to

have their own PCs. Computer

games and software were

more often related to sport, a

mainly male interest, than the

soap operas or narratives girls

"The relative lack of girl-

friendly, communication-orientated or narrative-based software is a cause for con-cern," it said.

Working-class families were less likely to have computers

at home, but, if they did, they

were more likely to be in the

child's room because parents

Girls were less likely to be

Noye appeals

An appeal by Kenneth Noye against extradition from Spain for questioning over the M25 "road rage" murder of Stephen Cameron in May 1996 has gone before 12 judges in Madrid. They are expected to take at least a week to rule on his claims of illegal identification and media prejudice.

Lateral thinking

with a left and right side, rathing genetic variation, they con-

Lucky clubbers

Three unemployed friends turned away from a nightclub in York because they were dressed in T-shirts nipped into a late-night store to buy a cheap shirt each. While there, Sam McKee, 27, Owen Buckle, 20, and Simon Allen, 18, bought a scratchcard and won

Then and now, children out playing marbles on a street in Leeds, and a child watching television in an age when reading a book is said to be boring, old-fashioned, frustrating and too much of an effort

Prisoners in their bedrooms

CHILDREN are becoming prisoners of a "bedroom culture" because their parents fear for their safety outside, ac-

cording to a new study. They are giving their chil-dren more televisions, videos, computers and CD players to use in their bedrooms to compensate for their restricted lifestyles, the London School of Economics report says.

As a result, books are having an increasingly smaller role in children's lives. They prefer to use CD-Roms and the Internet as their sources for information, and television for their narrative. According to the study, books are regarded as "boring, old-fashioned, frustrating and requiring too

Carol Midgley reports on a study that says media-obsessed children should get out more

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much effort. Books are not trendy: they are the sort of thing your parents approve of," it says. Almost a third of parents

said their children spent very little or none of their leisure time outside the home. Drugs and crime were cited as their biggest worries. There was a "stark contrast" between their perception of the environment now and when they were young. "Possibly by way of compensation. increasing numbers of children are provided with a rich media environment at home."

The report says that young

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people do not, in general, feel isolated in their bedrooms. They share their "media lives" with friends and conduct "penpal™ relationships over the Internet. Nor could they be termed media addicts. Only I per cent of children could be termed heavy users of television or computer games, watching a "worrying" seven

hours a day. Sonia Livingstone, head of the team, which claims to have conducted the most comprehensive survey of media use by children for 40 years, said: "Our research does not sup-port moral panies about children addicted to computer games or mindless entertainment on television, but children need to be screen-wise as well as book-wise. They are developing new skills and need support in this."

Just over two thirds of young people have televisions in their rooms. Among chil-dren aged six to seven, half

About half of young people have personal computers at home, and a third have television-linked games machines in their bedrooms. "Bedtime might be better termed bedroom time', for it marks the

by the Advertising Associa-tion, the BBC, BT, the Broadcasting Standards Commis-sion, ITV and several European bodies More than 1,300 children filled in questionnaires, 32 families gave detailed interviews.

end of the family day, rather than the start of sleep," said

the study, which was funded

and 27 focus groups with young people aged six to 17 provided researchers with infor-mation about their television, computer, video, audio and book use.

The study found that British children were much more like-

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ly than their European counterparts to be watching television or playing computer games and spent an average five hours a day on media use. Three quarters of those aged 12 to 14 and four fifths of those

aged 15 to 17 said that there was not enough for them to do outside. This was double the number who complained of similar problems in most other European countries. Watching television was the most popular leisure activity,

with an average 21/2 hours a day spent in front of the screen. Children said that watching television was "what you do when you are bored and have nothing better to do".

The study said: "The mes-

sage from children and their parents to policy-makers is clear: improve the provision of

THE NINETIES

rities). Like millions of teenagers, she is gripped by the need for long evening discussions with the friends she spends all day with at school. Chiqe, 15, from Holland Park, West London, divides her time between the computer, the television and the phone, but feels her existence is anything but solitary. "I get

Home and Away, then do my homework until supper," she said. Homework is targety done on her computer, which is about to be connected to the Internet. "After supper I finish my homework and then speak to my friends on the phone. Depending What's on TV, TI play on the computer, my PlayStation of lister to music. On weekdays I hardly ever go out, but I have quite a sociable life. I have school all day with

my mends and I speak on the phone a lot." Her bedroom, however, is currently a cause for consternation. "It was done when I was eight so I really hate it," she said. "I want it to be my own personal space." But it does have a hi-fi system and the phone extension is outside her bedroom door, A television, however, has been banned. "I want

THE FIFTIES

They were the young ones:-

One browse through The Winter Book for Girls confirms this wew. With chapters on First Steps in Ballcoom Dancing, How to Make a Raffia Lampshade and Puppetry as a Hobby, this is the book for young people with time on their hands. The book advises, in a section of Restyle Your Bedroom to Suit Yourself. "To have your own room is never so important as in the instance of Your the teenage girl who is becoming a personality in her own

y ordered cuboards and books propped up with a wirele Noreen Marshell, of the Museum of Childhood, said: "This was a transition period from the early 20th century, when people made entertainment at home, like playing cards or singing together. It was considered safe, but then the media was not omnipresent. People think of this mythical time when no one got attacked and there was no child abuse, but that's

Speaking on the telephone is a major part of Chice Barnes's

home from school at about 5,45pm, watch Neighbours and

one, but would never come out of my room."

cycling gaily down traffic-free streets, jiving at the local hop or gazing at their screen idol on a poster. The fifties teenager, if nostalgia is to be believed, lived in a haloyon era and indulged la wholesome pursuits.

right." Diagrams show a room bursting with climbing plants, neat-

not true. It was simply not publicised."

aposed

g girls

 $\mathbb{C}_{n, \mathbb{C}}$

working conditions, began on March 8.

The first bilateral creatures er than being round — were flatworms that lived 500 million years ago, a Spanish team reports in Science. By studycluded that Acoela emerged before the great flowering of life in the Cambrian explosion

CORRECTION

In an article (January 17) we wrongly attributed to George Oldham, director of Newcas, tie's Centre for the Urban En vironment, the opinion that architects are "keepers of the keys, not charitable do-gooders". We are happy to make clear that this is not Mr Oldham's view, and apologise for any embarrassment caused.



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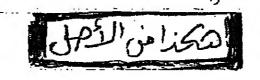
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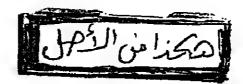
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Police j warmi



Rod Hull falls to death while adjusting aerial

ROD HULL, the creator of the pupper Emu, has died in a fall while trying to adjust his television aerial.

He fell from a ladder at his

cottage at Winchelsea, East Sussex, on Wednesday night while trying to get a better picture during the football match between Manchester United and Inter Milan.

He will, perhaps, be best re-membered for seriously flus-tering Michael Parkinson in the 1970s when he attacked the chatshow host with the emu. Mr Parkinson said yesterday: "I am very sad to hear of Rod's death. He was a charming, intelligent and sensitive man quite unlike the emu.

"Emu was the dark side of his personality, and very funny, provided it was not on top of you. He was a gentle man and an endearing companion. We will sorely miss him."

The death of the 63-year-old

entertainer, who shared the cottage with his son Oliver, 19, was confirmed by his agent, Laurie Mansfield, who said yesterday: "We are not certain Man Utd reception was poor, writes Richard Duce

Michael Parkinson falls victim to the trascible Emu on his chat show in the 1970s

what happened but we know comeback. "He was one of the that he was watching the footnicest men that I ever met. I've ball. The picture was bad and never known him to do a nasty he went up on to the roof to adjust the aerial and fell off." thing."

Mr Hull, who was born in

It was Mr Hull's son who Kent, moved to Australia be-fore returning to Britain in 1970. He enjoyed great success raised the alarm. His father was declared dead at Conquest Hospital in Hastings.

Mr Mansfield said that Mr with his emu act until the ear-ly 1980s. He decided on a stage Hull had recently been to Loncareer as the best way of curdon to talk about summer ing a boyhood stammer.

He had ambitious plans to plans, which included taking Emu on the road again and the possibility of a television.

in Rochester, as his family home. However, the purchase of the property in 1991 coincid-ed with a decline in his popularity. The venture was abandoned and he declared himself bankrupt. It meant he could no longer afford to put his two sons through private school.

The financial problems led to the break-up of his mar-riage to Cher, his second wife. The couple, who had three children, returned to Australia renovate Restoration House, five years ago but the marthe former retreat of Charles II

returned to England. He moved into his two-bedroom conage, rented from the Na-tional Trust, five years ago. At the Queen's Head pub in

nearby icklesham, where he often had a pint and a game of boules, Martin Harris, the landlord, said: "He was a kind, gentle and generous man. He was involved with the community, who are dis-tressed at what has happened.

"Despite his TV image he was a shy man who kept a low profile. That emu never made an appearance at my pub."

In a recent interview Mr Hull, who made the children's programmes Grottbags and the Pink Windmill in the 1980s, was critical of television producers, saying: "They don't want to spend any money to create what children want."

Philip Davidson, Mr Hull's son-in-law, said: "He lived crazy and died crazy. He liked to live life to the full.



Boy of 6 'exposed himself to girls'

By A Correspondent

A BOY of six is being kept un-der close supervision at school after being accused of "sexual-ly inappropriate behaviour" with female classmates.

Some parents at the school in Enfield, North London, reportedly demanded that the boy should be expelled after he allegedly exposed himself.

However, teaching unions yesterday backed the school and the local education authority, who decided he should be allowed to remain. The school has put an extra teacher on duty during break times to keep the boy under observation, and a spokesman for the council said there had been no

repeat of the incidents. A spokesman for the author: ty said: The family concerned has been very co-operative by attending meetings and taking the child home at hunch times. The school is providing additional support and supervision throughout the school day."

A spokesman for the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers said they supported the school's action. "These sort of incidents are very rare. We make a clear distinction between this and violent behav-

Police give warning of serial rapist

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

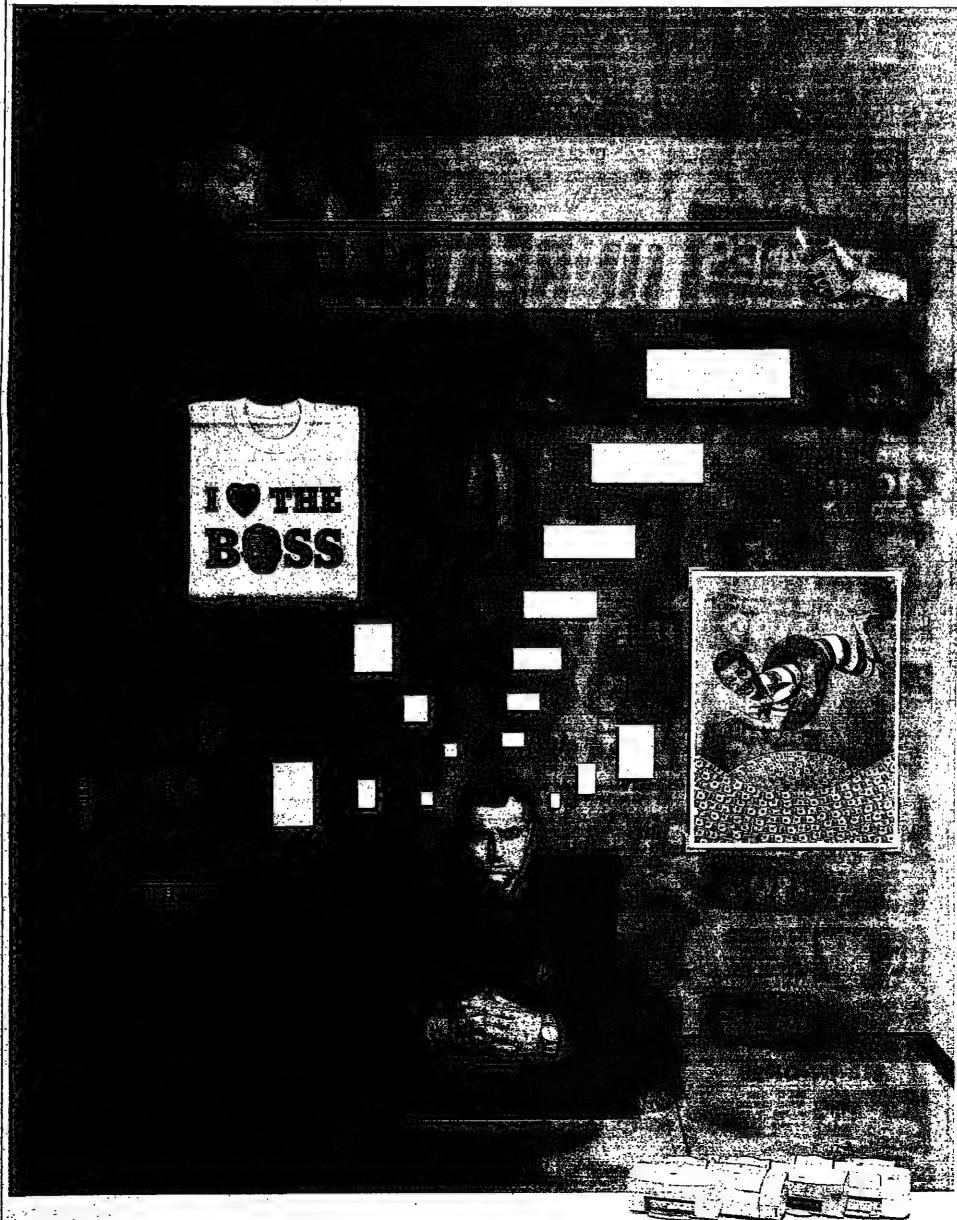
POLICE have warned women not to walk alone at night in a city where a serial rapist has struck at least three times.

One hundred officers in Southampton are involved in a hunt for the man, who police say is an active, violent, predatory rapist and they fear that he could kill his next victim. Hampshire Police know he has struck three times in the past two years in the city and are linking him to a fourth rape and other sex offences, inchiding an attack on a 14-year-

A breakthrough in the hunt came when DNA tests estabfished clear evidence that the rapes were carried out by the il Police di out DNA tests on 1,000 men aged between 16 and 35.

been a serious escalation in the violence this man has used and he is an extremely dangerous person. Ultimately we fear he may murder someone."

The rapist, described as white and aged between 22 and 24, is between 6ft and 6ft 4in tall, of slim to medium build with short, tidy, light brown hair, clean-shaven,



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Blair promises to end child poverty within 20 years

TONY BLAIR yesterday said that he wanted to make the welfare state as popular as the NHS as he pledged to wipe out child poverty in Britain within 20 years.

Delivering the Beveridge Lecture at Toynbee Hall in London, the Prime Minister said that public confidence in the welfare state had to be restored in order to convince taxpayers that welfare spending

was a good thing.

However, welfare campaigners accused him of being under-ambitious and called on him to abandon tax cuts and spend more money on alleviating hardship. Opposition parties attacked Mr Blair for cynicism and failing to come up

The only road to a popular welfare state is radical welfare reform," Mr Blair said. Part of the way to achieve this was through focusing on children and helping families to get above the breadline, he suggested. Spending on children would rise by more than £6 billion this Parliament while plans announced by Gordon Brown would lift 700,000 children out of poverty in the same period.

"Poverty should not be a birthright. Being poor should not be a life sentence. We need to break the cycle of disadvantage so that children born into poverty are not condemned to social exclusion and deprivation." Mr Blair said.

'And I will set out our histor-

But campaigners say Britain could afford to wipe it

out in half the time, reports Jill Sherman

ic aim that ours is the first gen-eration to end child poverty for ever, and it will take a generation. It is a 20-year mission but I believe it can be done if we reform the welfare state and build it around the needs of families and children," he

The levels of child deprivation were frightening with al-most one in three children in Britain living in poverty and poor children more likely to have trouble with education, the police and teenage preg-nancy, Increased child benefit, the working families tax credit, improved maternity and paternity rights, the minimum wage and school improve-ments would help all children,

not just the poorest. However, the Child Poverty Action Group said he should have set a target of ten years and called for an explicit commitment to reducing inequality. "The Government can and should be more ambitious," said Martin Barnes of the action group. "A child born into

by the time the target date of 2019 is reached. We are a very wealthy nation. We can afford to end child poverty in ten

years, not 20."

The organisation called on the Government to abandon the planned lp income tax cut and instead improve social security benefits for families. Child benefit should be increased further and the Government should remove the upper earnings limit on national contributions. insurance which could raise £3.5 billion to invest in employment and improved public services.

The Tories accused the Prime Minister of a cynical attempt to deflect attention from Labour's failure to meet its original pledges on welfare reform. Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secre-tary, said: "By introducing a range of anti-family, anti-mar-riage policies, the Government is going in completely the wrong direction to alleviate child poverty."

The Liberal Democrats said the Mr Blair was right to tack-le child poverty but that 20 years too long. Mr Blair said his Govern-

ment had already cut by almost I per cent a year the real growth of social security spending, and spent £5 billion less than the last administration had planned for. He praised William, later

Lord, Beveridge, the Liberal



economist whose 1942 Report on Social Insurance and Al-lied Services paved the way for the welfare state. Mr Blair said it was then associated with progress and achievement, giving people their first pension, a decent home and peace of mind if unemployed.

Mr Blair was welcomed to Toynbee Hall by John Profu-mo, its president and former War Secretary, and Lord Butler of Brockwell, the Master of University College, Oxford, and former Cabinet Secretary. The lecture was the first in a series marking the 750th anniversary of University College.

Leading article, page 23

CHANGING DEFINITIONS OF POVERTY

The definition of poverty has changed signifcantly over the last 60 years from having barely enough to eat to having enough to buy bigs-rettes and a secondhand television. But relative poverty is still on the rise, and the gap between

rich and poor has widened since 1979.

The Government's definition of poverty is half the average household income. A single adult is fiving in poverty if he or she has an income, after housing costs, of at most £73.50 a week. A cou-ple with no children are in poverty if they earn £133.50 a week while a couple with three children would be on £223.

On these figures, accepted by the Child Pover-ty Action Group and the Low Pay, Unit, more than 14 million people are in poverty, compared with 5 million in 1979. About 4.6 million children are in these households, which Gordon Brown

says he will reduce by 700,000 this Parliament. In 1942 Beverlage stated that: "In considering the minimum income needed by persons of working age for subsistence during the interruption of earnings, it is sufficient to take into account food, clothing, tuel, light and household But two decades earlier Joseph Rowntree, who ploneered work to alleviate poverty, de-

fined it thus: "A tamily living on the scale allowed for must never spend a penny on railway fare or omnibus They must never purchase a helfpenny newspaper or spend a penny to buy a ticket for a popular concert. They must write no letters to absent children, for they cannot afford to pay the postage. They must never contribute anything to their church or chapel, or give any help to a neighbour which coats them money."

Thatcher challenger saddles up again

BY JAMES LANDALE POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR ANTHONY MEYER, the "stalking horse" MP who famously but unsuccessfully challenged Margaret Thatcher for the Tory leadership, has joined the breakaway Pro-Eu-To Conservative Party. He said the time had come

for pro-European Tories to take a stand against the party's Eurosceptic drift. Sir Anthony, who left Parliament in 1992, will campaign and make speeches. But, now 78, he will not stand as a candidate.

His leadership challenge to Mrs Thatcher in November 1989, although widely ridi-culed, secured 33 votes and an almost equal number of abstentions, it severely embarrassed the Prime Minister and paved the way for Michael Heseltine's challenge in 1990.

A Tory spokesman said: The stalking horse has finally ended up in the knackers' yard."



Meyer: joined breakaway.

Queen to open Scots parliament 'in mufti'

By JASON ALLARDYCE SCOTTISH POLITICAL REPORTER

A CONSTITUTIONAL row broke yesterday after it emerged that the Queen is to wear everyday clothes to open the Scottish parliament.

Her proposed low-key role in the ceremonial opening on July I follows advice from government ministers that the day should be a civic celebration for ordinary people, relatively free from pomp.

She is now unlikely to wear

the historic robes of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's equivalent of the Garter, nor is she likely to be drawn in the Scottish State Coach.

Bernard Crick, Professor Emeritus of Politics at the University of London, gave warnlng that a civic event would amount to surrendering to nationalists who want unionist

sentiments to be suppressed. The decision follows talks between Scottish Office and Buckingham Palace officials. It rekindled memories of the outrage over the Queen's decision to wear ordinary clothes and carry a handbag during her first Scottish visit after her commation in 1953.

Cook forestalls 'meddling' by new assemblies

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

ROBIN COOK has moved to forestall the devolved national assemblies from meddling in foreign policy and going on junkets around the world. The Foreign Secretary has

also insisted on new ground rules between Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure that the UK continues to speak with one voice in Europe. He and Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary, are anxious to prevent "territorial wars" over busi-ness and investment, and to

control regional inducements to attract new industry. They anticipate the assem-blies establishing "national" of-fices in Brussels to promote

their administrations but they do not want freelance operations elsewhere. Even if there are conflicts over forestry, fisheries, or agriculture, the Government is adamant that it will negotiate in Europe for the national interest only. A new structure of joint ministerial committees is to be set up to decide the UK line in ad-

vance of key negotiations. There is no question of Britthe EU to take account of a regional interest, although as-

Cabinet ministers at meetings A concordat to be signed by the regional leaders in May will stipulate that they toe the overall government line with no underhand lobbying that might harm UK interests.

A new Foreign Office unit will liaise with the Scottish parliament and Northern Ireland and Welsh assemblies and help to organise foreign travel. Embassies will be put at the disposal of regional leaders but it is clear Mr Cook does not want them to be used as hotels or for his ambassadors' time to be wasted on petty matters. The unit would also act as "a lightning conductor" if an overseas Covernment tired of constant visits from the administrations. Officials would

block follow-up trips. The unit will also liaise with governments that wish to visit the new administrations. The Foreign Office is anticipating a glut of requests to visit Edin burgh, Cardiff and Belfast. with many countries setting ain splitting its block vote in up consulate offices there.



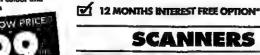
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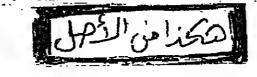
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Rubella grow Wi in vaccii

Caution urge

GD deaths

Maggots clean in wound care

Mothers insist

on the right to refuse jabs

JACKIE FLETCHER founded a support group called Jabs - Justice Awareness Basic Support -- when her baby son. Robert, became ill and deeloped autism after being given the triple vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella.

Robert was developing perfectly at the time of the vaccination," she said. "From then on his life changed. He has had umpteen convulsions and fits. We are not anti-vaccine. but we are anti-damage. We think parents should understand that vaccines are not compulsory and they do have a choice."

More than 1,400 families have joined a claim for damages against the drugs companies that have manufactured

the vaccines since 1988.
But Jane Mulholland, whose son Roger was born with congenital rubella syn-drome 12 years ago, is dis-mayed that some parents are choosing not to have their chil-

"I don't think people who

are concerned about the MMR vaccine know quite how devastating the rubella virus can be for the unborn child," she said. "My son has been to hell and back since he was born 12 years ago and the family has been there with him. He was born completely blind and deaf, with brain damage and multiple heart defects."

Doctors working in public health say that although a small number of children are victims in the war against disease", the numbers of lives saved and chronic illnesses prevented by immunisation are immensely greater.

Vaccination has eradicated smallpox and almost wiped out polio. Rubella was disappearing until fears arose about the vaccine. To control rubella, more than 85 per cent of the population needs to be immunised for a decade or more, If immunisation drops below that level for any length

Rubella fears grow with fall in vaccination

THERE is a growing danger of an epidemic of babies being born with rubella because the proportion of infants being immunised against the disease has been falling for more than

A study published in the British Medical Journal today shows that the number of mothers giving birth to chil-dren with German measles has started to rise, as has the number of women obtaining an abortion because of exposure to the infection during

The authors, from the Insti-tute of Child Health in London, say that public anxiety about the safety of the vaccine, which also protects against measles and mumps, is re-sponsible for the decline. The largest fall occurred at the start of last year after publication of a report suggesting a possible link between the tri-

ple vaccination and autism. That link has since been discounted by an independent group of experts, but the 6 per cent drop in immunisations, following publication of the re-port, has not been reversed. he number of children vaccinated by the time they are 16



The rubella virus: spread

epidemic among babies could

have devastating effects, reports

Ian Murray

per cent to 77 per cent. Before the rubella vaccine was introduced for schoolgirls in 1970, up to 300 babies a year were born in England and Wales with congenital defects associated with the disease. Those include deafness, heart disease, mental handicap, eye disorders, cerebral palsy and bone abnormalities. About a fifth of the babies will die in infancy.

Vaccinations, even though they do not give 100 per cent protection, had an immediate impact. The number of babies born with defects in 1971-75 averaged 48 and there were 742

In 1988 the figures started to fall again with the introduction of the triple vaccination for all children under two. By 1991-95 the average number of cases was just four births and nine terminations. A high proportion of those cases was among women who were ei-ther immigrants or who had acquired the infection while

When the decline in vaccinations began, the figures began to rise again and the number women who became infected in Britain overtook the number of cases among immigrants. In 1996 there were 12 children born with the infec-tion and a similar number of



in airborne droplets Caution urged over rise in CID dooth

THE unusually high number of deaths before Christmas from the human version of "mad cow" disease does not mean that a drastic epidemic of the illness is on the way, ac-

cording to The Lancet. A letter from the Creuzfeldt-Jakoh Disease Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, published in the journal, reports that the number of deaths from the illness iumped to nine in the last quarter of 1998 after a total of six deaths in the previous nine months and 23 in the previous

The letter says that the figures for one quarter need to be interpreted with caution, but do tend to strengthen the evidence that there is increasing mortality from the disease.

"Although the number of deaths in the last quarter of 1998 was unusual, we do not know if this level of mortality will be sustained," the letter says, "The number of CJD deaths during the coming years will provide a clearer indication of whether the apparent increase in deaths towards the end of 1998 was a chance observation or marks a change in the underlying mor-

The journal says in a lead-ing article that the "disquieting" increase in the death rate had been public knowledge for the past two months but nobody seemed to notice.

Perhaps scientists, doctors and journalists are tired of a topic that since the furore of % seems to have degenerate ed into political point-scoring," it says, "The outlook

(Nigel Hawkes writes).

are caused by the prion pro-tein — a long string of amino acids linked together - folding up into a different shape. All proteins fold in characteristic ways that determine their properties in the body but in the case of prions a misfolded form can appear.

A team led by Professor John Collinge, of the Imperial College School of Medicine, has shown that breaking a single bond in the prion protein molecule is enough to trigger

The discovery could lead to change opened up many new research directions for understanding BSE and CJD. Professor Collinge said.

(That's alright, we've got a lot of answers.)

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from many aspects is grim. In the UK the BSE inquiry will almost certainly publish an anodyne report replete with handwringing but conclude no one is to blame. Worldwide, animal feeding practices will continue to be driven by the pros-pect of quick profit and not by considerations of sound ani-

mai husbandry." The lesson to be learnt is that clinicians have to be highly suspicious in future about unusual diseases and mus support a strict surveillance of them when they occur. British scientists have for

the first time reproduced in a test tube the changes that lead "mad cow" disease and CJD CID and similar diseases

better tests for CID and ultimately to drugs able to treat the disease. Isolating the

Maggots clean up in wound care

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

INTECTED wounds are increasingly being treated with sterile maggots of the common greenbottle fly to destroy bacteria that have become resistant to untibiotics.

The biosurgical research unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, South Wales, is the only supplier of the larvae in Britain. They cost £54 for a pot of 150: so far more than 5,000 pots have

They are cost-effective because they both kill the bacteria and clean the wound." Steve Thomas, director of the unit, said. They are only available privately, but they should be made available on prescription because they would save the NHS a great deal of money. We have cured

patients in days who have

been in hospital on antibiotics

for weeks." Writing in the British Medical Journal today, he says that the maggots are useful in the treatment of all types of

Jackie Fletcher blames the vaccination for the disabilities of six-year-old Robert Hose do my customers contact me when I'm mit of the officer How can I connect to the internet? Is my equipment millenulum compliant? How do I get ISDN? What is Exonumeree? Will I do more business with a frequée number? How do I make sure I dan't adop) the to<mark>rong technology? How can I transfer</mark> data more quickly? **How do I design my own website?** Do you offer business raining? How can I do business over the internet? What's the quickest way of sharing info in our company? How much does a Freefone number cost? How do I give my company a more professional image? Do I need internet access to get e-mail? How can I connect to the Internet? Will I do your business with a freefone-number? How can I transfer data more quickly? What is E

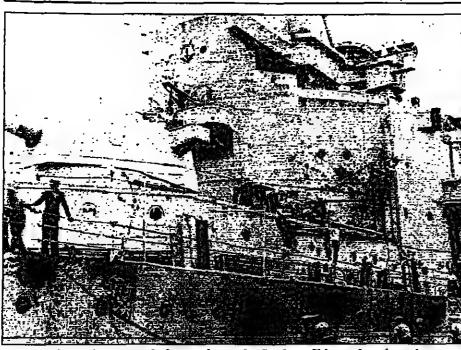
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HMS Amethyst, scarred after coming under fire from Chinese shore batteries

Old foes salute frigate's escape from Yangtze

THE courageous exploit of HMS Amethyst, the frigate which got caught up in China's civil war between the Communists and Nationalists in 1949 while steaming down the Yangize River, remains one of the most heroic events

of Royal Navy history. Her ambush by Communist guns, the loss of 17 of the crew members, including the captain, and her subsequent dash for freedom down the Yangize after three months at anchor while the war raged around them, have never been for-

Yesterday's wreath-laying in the Yangtze by Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, the First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, along with a senior Chinese admiral, served to show that nearly 50 years after the event, the memories of it still linger for both British and Chinese.

It was on April 19, 1949 that the i 490-tonne frigate, with a complement of 192 officers and men commanded by Lieutenant Commander Bernard Skinner, was ordered to leave Shanghai and to sail 180 miles up the Yangtze River to Nanking, the seat of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist Govern-

Fifty years on, memories of a dash to freedom

live on, writes Michael Evans

ment, to relieve the destroyer, HMS Consort, as guardship to the British Embassy.

The order came as the Chinese Communists north of the Yangtze River and the Nationalist forces to the south were engaged in bitter fighting. HMS Amethyst, engaged in a peaceful mission, came under fierce attack from the Communist shore batteries.

Lieutenant Commander Skinner was seriously injured and subsequently died. Three

LINKS

shins built between 1928 and 1946 http://www.geprint.com/cand/arm http://www.geprint.com/cand/arm other Royal Navy warships, HMS Consort, HMS London and HMS Black Swan. steamed to the rescue but were also shelled, with serious loss

The crippled Amethyst ran aground on Rose Island but the crew managed to refloat her and proceeded a few miles upriver, first to an anchorage off Chang Sang Chau Island and later to the Ta Sha South Channel.

It was at this stage that 33-year-old Lieutenant Commander John Kerans, assistant naval attaché at the embassy in Nanking, arrived on the frigate to take over command.

There followed 100 days of negotiations with the Communists to let the frigate go. But every time the warship tried to move its moorings, it was fired on by shore-based artillery. Conditions deteriorated.

The men went on half-rations and there was a plague of rats against which the ship's cat. Simon, fought daily battles. Al-though the world had been outraged by the fate of the Amethyst, she remained trapped for so long that she had almost been forgotten by the public. However, the Admiralty





BRITISH WARSHIPS SHELLED ON YANGTZE

OVER 70 CASUALTIES REPORTED

The British sloop H M.S. Amethyst was fired on by Communist field artiflery while on her way up the Yangtze yesterday with supplies for the British Embassy at Manking. The destroyer H.M.S. Consort

The 1949 report in The Times of the Amethyse's mission and Simon the cat, decorated for his battle with rats

was becoming increasingly worried about the shortage of food and medical supplies on the frigate. The Chinese Communists were also showing no sign of giving the ship and its crew their freedom. Admiral

er-in-Chief Far East Station, decided that escape by night was the only solution. It was a four shore batteries. The Amedesperate gamble. The Amethyst overcame more than 140 thyst slipped her cable at miles of navigational hazards

Sir Patrick Brind, Command- July 31, 1949. The frigate soon of the trickiest in the world came under heavy artillery and machinegun fire from

On learning of the escape, the naval authorities said:

and on a pitch dark night, be-fore successfully reaching the

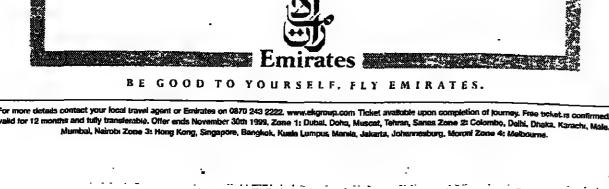
with which it was planned and the determination with which it was conducted. The timing was a vital factor. The Ame-thyst hardly had enough speed to slip after dark and to pass

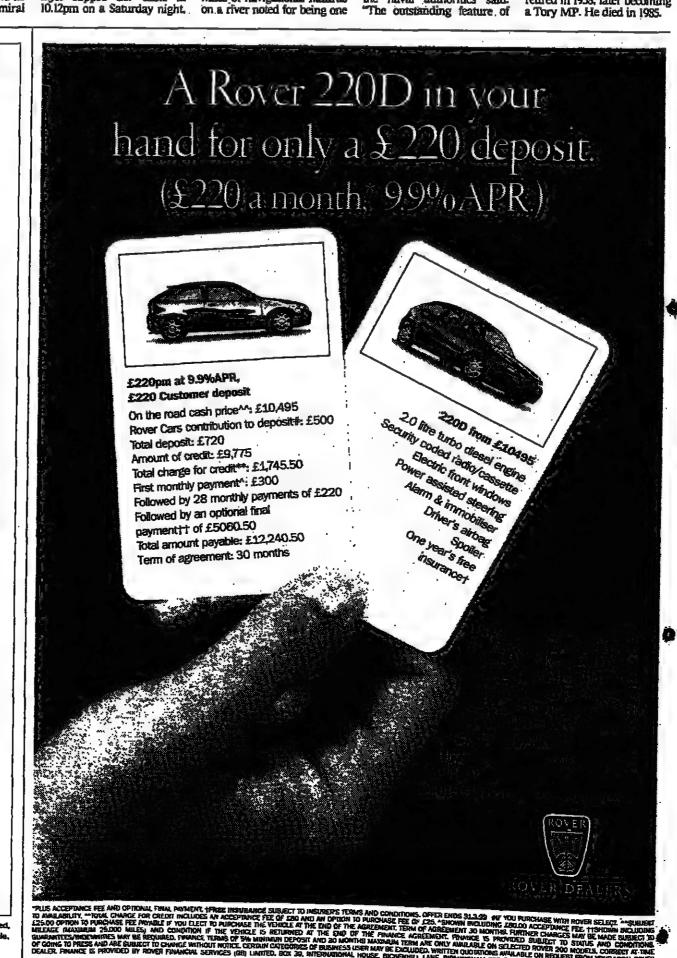
the Woosung forts by dawn." The statement went on: "Having negotiated varying currents, sandbanks, and sharp turns during the 140-mile passage, she arrived with only nine tonnes of fuel re-

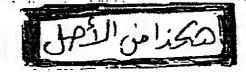
The Amethyst had been held hostage by the Chinese Communists since April 20 and the crew had been on half-rations since the beginning of July. The first signal she sent on meeting up with HMS Con-sort read: "Have rejoined the fleet south of Woosung. No damage or casualties. God Save the King." Lieutenant Commander Ker-

ans was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and there were numerous other bravery awards for the crew. The ship returned to Plymouth to an ecstatic welcome. Lieutenant-Commander Kerans was -promoted to commander and retired in 1958, later becoming









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Italian sex pests get the go-ahead — as long as they are in love



Mussolini: said ruling

ITALIAN feminists yesterday reacted with fury to a court ruling that a vances to his female staff cannot be charged with sexual harassment as long as he is "genuinely in love with the object of his affections".

A court in Como dismissed a claim for compensation by a 34-year-old secretary who said she had been forced to leave the engineering firm she worked for be-cause her boss's sexual advances had become intolerable and had

The woman, who was unnamed, said she joined the firm as secretary to the managing director in November 1997, but six months later had complained to her trade Feminists decry 'molester's charter', writes Richard Owen in Rome

union that be was persistently "kissing me, hugging me and groping

When the harassment continued, she first went on five months' sick leave, and then resigned. She subsequently sued the company for fail-

When challenged in court, the managing director — who was also not named — argued successfully that he had been in love with the woman and had "lost his head". The Como judges accepted his

ing to award her severance pay.

case, a decision dubbed yesterday a "charter for lecherous bosses" by the Italian press.

This is more reminiscent of the Middle Ages than the eve of the third millennium," said Alessan-dra Mussolini, the granddaughter of Italy's Fascist dictator. Benito Mussolini, and far-right MP for Naples, who campaigns for wom-

Last month Signora Mussolini was at the forefront of protests when the Italian appeal court ruled that a woman cannot be raped if

since their removal requires "a measure of co-operation and consent". The court overturned the conviction of a driving instructor for raping an 18-year-old student who had worn jeans

Signora Mussolini said the Como ruling was a step backwards, and meant that "we might as well go back to the time when killing an adulterous wife was pardoned as a crime of honour".

She added: "Even a maniac can claim he has fallen in love. And in any case, how on earth can judges decide who is in love and who is

Grazia Villa, the lawyer for the secretary, said that her client had "could not stand the atmosphere in the office any longer ... any woman will understand this."

The manager argued that the woman had "not resigned for any just or valid reason". Vittorio Anghileri, the presiding judge, said pol-ice had interviewed both the man and the woman. There had clearly been "a romantic relationship, at least on the part of the accused man, if not of the object of his desire", the judge said.

He noted that there were no witnesses to the alleged harassment. and no physical evidence on the woman's body to show that she had been molested.

But Signora Villa said the court

tions on them."

in Italy was still "a masculine in-We have to change the culture within which the law operates, and then change the law itself," Signora

future cases of sexual harassment

... In future a molester will be

able to get way with anything as

"We have now reached a situa-tion where women not only have to

be very careful about what they

wear, they also have to worry about

the feelings - or supposed feelings

- of those who force their atten-

She said it was difficult to prove

cases of this kind because the law

long as he claims to be in love.

Auditors fire off counterblast at defiant Santer

MEMBERS of the independent inquiry that brought down the European Commission yesterday attacked Jacques Santer, the Commission's President, and his team for rejecting their verdict and accused some commissioners of hindering their investigation.

Mr Santer, meanwhile, said he had no intention of leaving office for weeks and would attend next week's Berlin European Union summit despite the collective resignation of his team on Monday.

The Commission rejected arguments that the Treaty of Maastricht ruled out the reappointment of commissioners who had resigned. A strict reading of the treaty suggests this, but British officials insisted that outgoing commissioners could be immediately sent back to Brussels, as the Government plans to do with Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kin-

The Commission also confirmed yesterday that the out-

going members were entitled to about half their £130,000 salaries for each of the next three years to help them to make the transition to other careers. The commissioners also keep pension rights, equivalent to 4.5 per cent of their last salary multiplied by their number of years in office.

In the meantime, the commissioners continue to receive their full salaries as long as they remain in their caretaker roles. The arrangements, standard for departing top Eurocrats, have been attacked by Tony Blair and other Euro-pean politicians. Officials said, however, that there could be no question of depriving them of the golden handshakes or pensions, since the

The counterblast from the outside auditors fuelled resentment inside the Brussels executive towards a second, more detailed inquiry into abuses by

only grounds for such action

would have been if they had

its senior management that is due to start this month. Some officials said the public attacks from the senior legal figures reinforced their view that the socalled "wise persons" inquiry had been pursuing a political

Andre Middelhoek, the Dutchman who headed the inquiry, said the committee's conclusion on the Commission's failure of management had been amply justified by its investigation. Mr Santer's rejection of the verdict on Tuesday must have been due to emotion, he said. "I cannot otherwise explain how the Commission could have so misconstrued our conclusions." Mr Middelhoek, a former

chief of the EU's Court of Auditors, also said some of the commissioners interviewed by his team had been unwilling to pass on information on their colleagues. "The commissioners should look beyond their garden fences and take out the weeds in their neighbours' gar-



Gerhard Schröder, left, at a press conference in Madrid after meeting José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, to discuss the Brussels crisis

dens," Mr Middelhoek told a Dutch newspaper.

Walter Van Gerven, the Belgian member of the team, also attacked Mr Santer's stand. but the sharpest riposte came from Pierre Lelong, the French member. "If [Mr · Santer] thinks that, then he has not understood anything that has happened," he said.

The broadside from the auditors stirred the ire of commissioners and senior officials, who see a political motive behind the auditors' actions. Some officials questioned Mr Middelhock's neutrality, given his battle with the Commission over its annual acocunts when he headed the EU financial watchdog. "Some people think he is trying to teach the Commission lessons that it didn't learn when he was with the Court of Auditors," said a Commission source.

Martine Reicherts, the spokeswoman for Mr Santer, denied rumours that senior officials were now planning to withhold co-operation with the inquiry when it starts its sec-

'Favourite' Prodi waits in wings

Rome: Professor Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister who has emerged as front-runner for the presidency of the European Commission, yesterday laid down his conditions for accepting the job (Richard

He told friends and advisers that he was not prepared to serve as an interim President, and that he had to have a "full mandate" with the full backing of all European Un-

He also indicated that he hoped to remain active in Italian politics, continuing to guide the small centre-left party he founded last month after being ousted as Italian leader. But a spokesman for the Commission was quoted by Ansa. the Italian news agency, as saying that any head of the

Commission could not at the same time "continue to be

head of a political party". Signor Prodi, widely admired for his integrity and his skill in guiding Italy into the euro, said no offer had been made as yet. He was "one of several possible candidates".

Told that he was the favour ite so far, he replied with a broad smile: "Only in the Ital-

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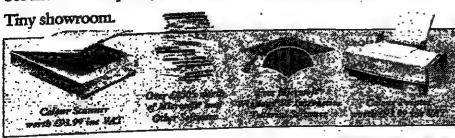
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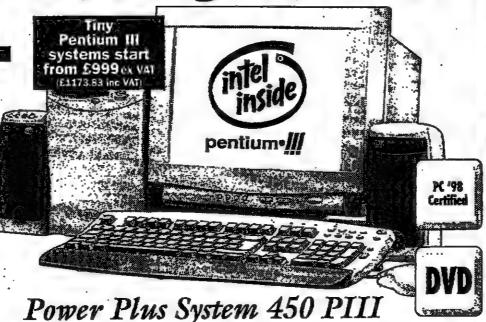
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Sex tape lays bare battle in the Kremlin

INSOMNIACS across Russia raised an eyebrow early yesterday as they watched grainy black and white footage of Yuri Skuratov, the Prosecutor-General and a married man, cavorting naked across their television screens with two

The decision to air the footage is thought to have been taken by President Yeltsin him-self. The President was lashing out at the Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, which had humiliated him in refusing to accept Mr Skuratov's resignation.

The release of the videotane was yet another move in a complex power struggle between the ailing Mr Yeltsin and Yevgeni Primakov, his increasingly popular Prime Minister.

The tale of the prosecutor and the prostitutes has failed to produce outrage among the cynical Russian people, long used to a staple diet of sex scandals and political intrigue. As to the explicit content of the tape itself, it was nothing com-

Prosecutor and prostitutes saga weakens Yeltsin, Anna Blundy in

pared to the routine sex and violence that is Russian television's nightly fare.

Moscow writes

The affair has left the embarrassed prosecutor and the angry President battling for what moral high ground re-mains. Mr Skuratov claims the footage used to blackmail him into resigning last month was obtained illegally.

There was no secret as to who he thought was behind the blackmail — the man the Russians love to hate and that stalwart of Kremlin intrigue, Boris Berezovsky. Everybody knows that Mr Primakov has been embroiled in a bitter conflict with Mr Berezovsky, a

his residence, Gorky-9, yester-General had blatantly defied Mr Yeltsin and baffled observers by arriving for work last week without warning after nearly a month's absence. The sordid affair has neither shocked ordinary Russians nor damaged Mr Skuratov's reputation, for this kind of scandal is usually met with

friend of the Yeltsin family

The Prime Minister had or-

dered investigations into Mr

Berezovsky's business dealings and Mr Skuratov men-

tioned many Berezovsky-related companies as he pleaded

for the Federation Council's

In turn, Mr Yeltsin accused Mr Skuratov of immorality,

saying via a spokesman that

"only morally untainted per-

He is thought to have al-

lowed the compromising video-tapes to be aired in an attempt

to prove his point. A spate of

vengeful sackings within the presidential administration is

now anticipated, with Nikola

Bordyuzha, the Chief of Staff,

and Oleg Sisuyev, his deputy looking the most vulnerable

The markets are also expected

to react, with the rouble plurn-

meting further against the

The President, irretrievably

weakened by the defiance of the Federation Council and the prosecutor, left hospital for

sons can combat crime",

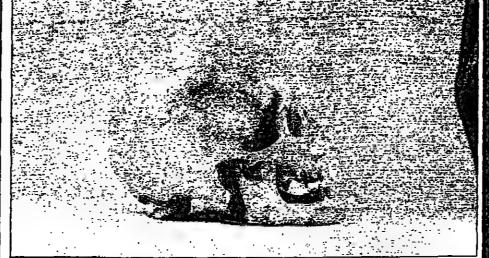
mercy on Wednesday.

news of his affair with Monica Lewinsky.
Ironically, the sex scandal has erupted on the very day Patriarch Aleksei II condemned the glut of sex and violence that dominates Russian television. "Such a situation de-

grudging respect. President Clinton's popularity ratings soared in Russia with the

The Communist-dominated Duma last week passed a censorship Bill aimed at ridding the media of the violence and pornography that has saturated it in recent years. Mr Yeltsin has promised to veto

Leading article, page 23



Photographs taken in 1970 showing the skull of Goethe, right, and his sarcophagus after the tomb was opened

Goethe's tomb was raided by **East Germans**

FROM TONY PATERSON IN BERLIN

EAST GERMAN scientists raided Goethe's tomb in a nocturnal cloakand-dagger operation intended to retrieve the remains of the 18th-century writer for posterity, Weimar officials said yesterday.

The city's Classics Foundation said

the hitherto unreported exhumation was carried out nearly 30 years ago. In November 1970, seven East German scientists used the pretext of a defective lock on the dead poet's sar-cophagus to open the tomb, located in a special burial vault on the outskirts

There was no secret about it, but the matter was handled with the utmost discretion," said Jürgen Seifert, the Weimar foundation's president. The subsequent removal of Goethe's remains was carried out at dead of night to avoid exposing the then Communist state to charges of The scientists found the poet's

decay. The contents of the sarcophagus were taken by handcart to the city's National Museum. Goethe's skeleton was cleaned and

remains in an advanced state of

placed on a bed of foam rubber and then returned, again at night, to the burial yault three weeks later.

A detailed report and seven roles of film documenting the exhumation were stored in the anatomical collection in Weimar's National Museum before they were found recently.

They showed that a crown of Jaurel leaves on Goethe's skull had been reinforced with plastic, a city spokes-

The discovery is potentially embar-rassing for Weimar. The city is trying to polish its image as this year's Euro-

pean city of culture and will host the celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of Goethe's birth later this

A-spokeswoman for the Weimar Classics Foundation yesterday dismissed suggestions that the removal of the poet's remains could be construed as desecration.

"It was simply an attempt to pre-serve the remains for posterity." she

But she added: "The way it was handled was typical of how such things were done in those days."



AS THE Kosovo peace talks ground to a halt in Paris yesterday and the Serbs were issued with a fresh ultimatum to accept Nato peacekeepers in Kosovo or face airstrikes, the Yugoslav Army said it was preparing counter-attacks against Nato targets in the neighbouring Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and in

stroys spirituality and har-mony in society," he said. the Adriatic. Defence analysis close to the military hierarchy in Belgrade confident that newly-acquired Russian anti-aircraft systems would help the large but cashstrapped force to repulse an initial wave of Nato airstrikes.

said the army was prepared for a do-or-die stand, and was

Milosevic is given new ultimatum on airstrikes as Kosovo peace talks stall,

writes Tom Walker in Belgrade

said those could begin late next week if the Serb delegation fails to agree to the peace plan by a revised deadline of Wednesday. The Albanian delegation signed the Contact Group document last night

"It is the orientation of the Yugoslav Army's supreme commander and the military leadership and primarily that of our people that Kosovo-Me-tohija must be defended at all costs." said General Nebojsa: Pavkovic, commander of the

Yugoslav Third Army in Kosovo. The overall army chief, Dragoljub Ojdanic, told military cadets to "prepare for martyrdom in the service of the fatherland". Nearly 93 per cent of Serbs questioned in a poli backed the generals, and said the army should hit back at Nato targets where possible.

"I am sure the army will not remain passive," said Miro-slav Lazanski, a respected military analyst with the pro-regime newspaper Vecernje

manders had outlined a list of potential targets, including the new Nato headquarters of Ku-manovo in northern Macedonia, along with more estab-lished sites in eastern Bosnia.

The Yugoslav Army's fleet of MiG 29 fighters, he said, was prepared for sorties against Nato warships in the Adriatic, which could also be attacked from missile sites in

Montenegro.
The bellicose rhetoric runs contrary to the more widely accepted scenario that President Milosevic of Yugoslavia will ailow Nato to execute pinprick strikes against unmanned and moribund military targets before throwing in the towel and

allowing peacekeepers into

Which option he chooses may well depend on public opinion, and the personal danger he feels from radicals like the Deputy Prime Minister Vojislav Seselj, who advocates war with Nato.

Serbia's one wavering supporter in the Contact Group, Russia, was yesterday still trying to persuade its Western partners to approach airstrikes with great caution.

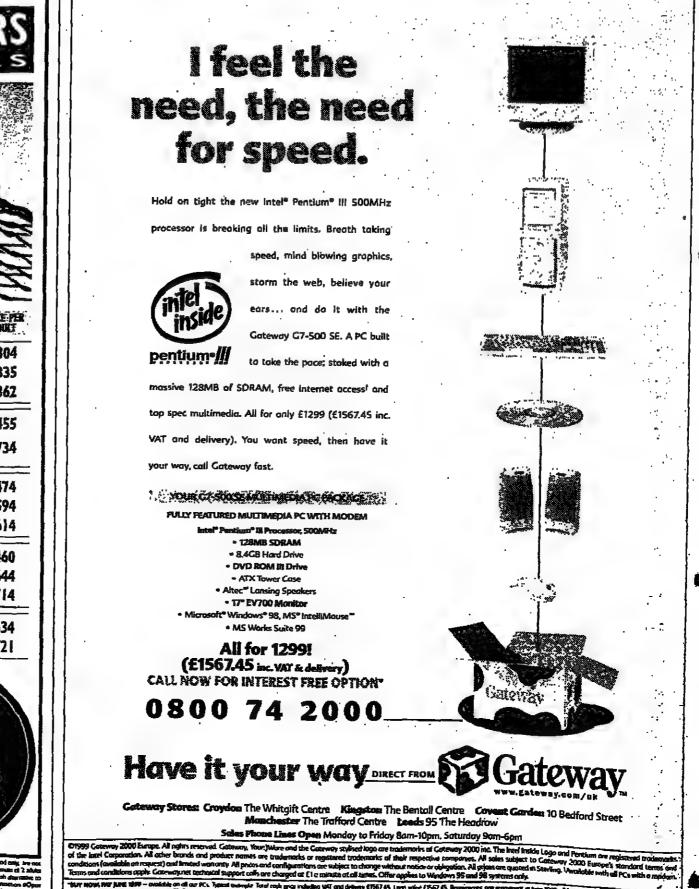
"If events take a military turn in Kosovo, it will spread to neighbouring states, and the Balkans as a whole will catch fire," said the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov,

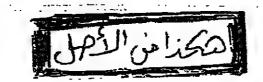


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Lgypt seeks to scotch organs for sale claim

EGYPT'S political, legal and medical establishment moved with rare alacrity yesterday to my to scoich allegations by Nile Delta MPs that 25 children had been sold to private hospitals - then murdered for their body parts.

Al Akbar, one of Cairo's two leading semi-official dailies, carried a front-page story claiming that an official investigation that opened this week had proved the allegations untrue. The paper devoted a page to its own investigation into what one headline described as claims that a foundlings' home in [the governate of Menoufieh had been turned into an abattoir.

The story included photographs of the death certificates of four alleged victims of a trade in human organs that the ten MPs claimed had taken place over three months. The certificates showed various natural causes of death.

A doctor at the educational hospital in the town of Shibeen Al-Qoon, 36 miles north of Cairo and the alleged centre of the organ market, said: "There is no doubt that children in the two institutions lived in appailing and squalid conditions, but there is not yet a shred of evidence I have seen that they died because their organs were being pirated."

Both institutions at the heart

el-Arabi, the general prosecu-tor, were closed late last year after repeated allegations of ne-glect. Ill treatment and finan-cial mismanagement by their separate administrators, a hus-band and wife team. The boards overseeing the institu-tions have been closed and the remaining 46 children moved

to the town's third orphanage. Bahiga Haman, its new head, said: "We took over on February 27 after a decision to

Newspaper headlines speak of a foundlings' home being

turned into an

abattoir ? get rid of the former management. The children were very sick and in bad shape. No blankets, no medical care. Most of the children are men-

tally handicapped." The MPs who made the allegations had by last night failed to provide detailed backing for their claims, which centred mainly on the alleged proximity of the numbers on death certificates over a short period, which raised suspi-

cions that they had been forged to cover wrongdoing. Hana Abu-Khatira, one of the first Egyptian journalists to investigate, told *The Times*: The main feeling among doc-tors at the hospital and Social Affairs Ministry officials who have already investigated these claims is that they are part of a political game being fought out in the Menoufieh

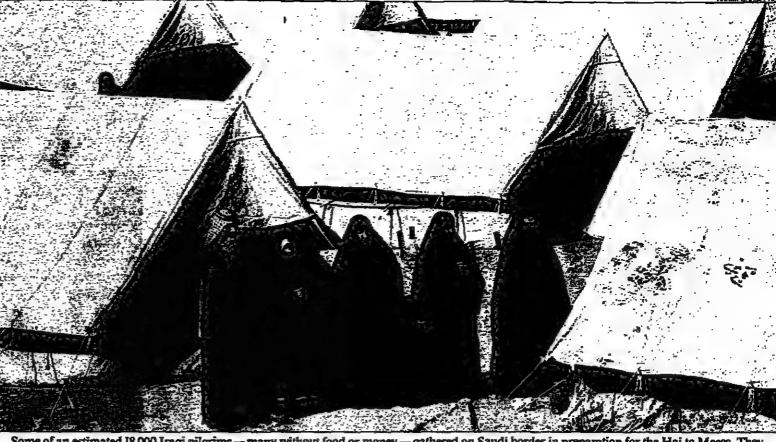
Ms Abu-Khatira added that doctors said many of the dead children were too young for

their organs to be marketable. Addi Hussein, the local governor, was one of the first to deny the allegations. He was responsible for dissolving the boards of both institutions in November and December because of irregularities.

The allegations caught the

public imagination because there are repeated rumours in Egypt - both of poor boys and girls being sold into prostitution to rich Gulf Arabs, and of organ markets run via coded newspaper advertisements.

"In a society where chil-dren's arms and legs are broken by their own parents to make them better street beggars, such stories (of organ markets) cannot be quickly dismissed," said one Cairo doctor. "But in this case, as of today, the facts to back up allegations of the systematic sale of so far unidentified organs of foundlings are still missing."



Some of an estimated 18,000 Iraqi pilgrims — many without food or money — gathered on Saudi border in preparation for the Haj to Mecca. They plan to cross the frontier in defiance of United Nations sanctions which restrict travel. Saudi officials have refused to say whether they will allow them to cross the border. It is a sacred duty for every Muslim to make the journey to the Prophet Muhammad's birthplace once in their lifetime

Iraq on the way to making nuclear weapons

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq may be on the verge of producing a workable nuclear weapon, according to a report citing bitherto unpublished evidence from an Iraqi nuclear scientist who worked for a decade on the secret nuclear weapons programme before defecting.

United Nations weapons inspectors believe that a plant west of Baghdad, which the Iraqis say is a tractor factory.

is designed to manufacture enriched uranium for nuclear bombs, and "there is mounting evidence that Iraq may be assembling a secret nuclear reactor to generate plutonium", according to yesterday's Wall Street Journal

Airstrikes by US and British warplanes are continuing in Iraq almost daily. But after the withdrawal of UN inspectors last December, there are increasing fears that Saddam is in a position to resume a fast-track programme make nuclear weapons.

"Either the uranium or plutonium could provide Saddam with what he needs to build a bomb, and much sooner than many in the West think," the report said.

Information about both secret weapons programmes was passed to American officials more than four years ago, but never made available to the UN Special Commission for the Disammament of Iraq, the report claimed.

Operation Desert Fox did little damage to the plants where Iraq's nuclear equipment is thought to be stored, and with the end of UN inspections Saddam may have begun rebuilding his nuclear production capability.

"If Iraq had access to nuclear material, it could produce a workable nuclear weapon within one year," a senior official at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna was quoted as saying.

UN weapons inspectors are particularly concerned by the tractor factory" at al-Ubur. The plant contains a high-voltage power source and a plant

for water purification, two of the facilities necessary for operating the particle accelerators used by Iraq to erurich ura-ruum before the Gulf War. the West but remains an effective method. "We are worried what the Iraqis can do in this facility," one weapons inspec-tor said. The report is supported by documents obtained through the Iraqi opposition group, Iraqi National Con-gress, and provided by a nuclear technician who defected in

Black Islamic leader 'close to death'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

LOUIS FARRAKHAN, the fiery and controversial leader of the Nation of Islam, is close to death. He is suffering from pros-tate cancer, but some of his followers suggest that he has been poisoned by the

According to a report in the minister's own newspaper, The Final Call, he has been gravely III since earlier this year.

"In the 44 years I have known him I've eral doctors that are working on me have never seen him this sick. To me, at one

point, he was at death's door." Mr Farrakhan, who has ruled his organisation with an iron fist for more than two decades, has said that he is suffering from prostate cancer and was treated in Libya by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's doctors. But The Final Call quoted a recent speech in which he said that he did

not know what was wrong with him. He said the "illness took me down so "My Brother is struggling to overcome fast that it concerned me greatly because, the forces of death," said Jabril Muham. though I'm nearing 66, I have never been mad, a member of the Nation of Islam. sick like this in my life. If it is a virus, severage from view.

not found that."

The newspaper said that after Mr Parrakhan made his speech he rallied, and this was attributed by the author to a miracle wrought by God.

But the Village Voice reported that members of his group claim he has been poisoned by the US Government. "The minister says he knows who, he knows where, and he knows why; he just doesn't know what was used to posion him," said



with prostate cancer

64,000 pigs to die in virus scare

FROM REUTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIAN armed forces will have killed 64,000 pigs by this weekend to fight a deadly virus said to have caused the deaths of up to 51 people and prompted a major health scare, officials said.

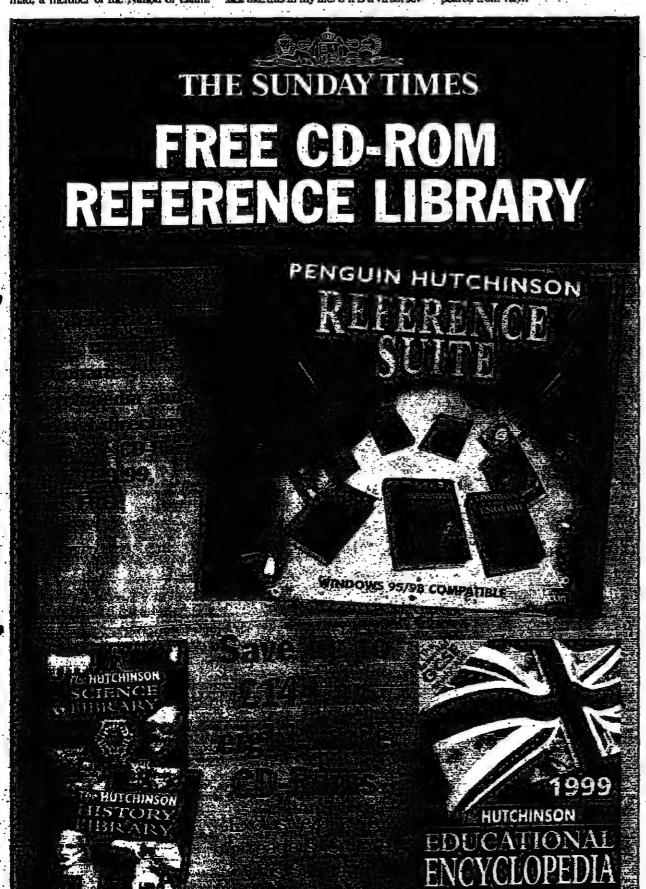
About 1,400 soldiers and policemen will move into three a virus causing the deadly Japanese encephalitis (JE) disease, officials said.

They said at least 31 people have died in Negri Sembilan of suspected JE, transmitted from infected pigs to humans by the culex mosquito. Unconfirmed reports say that up to 51 people have succumbed to the

disease since October. its symptoms include headment can result in paralysis or

The JE outbreak has caused some farmers to abandon their pigs and flee, emptying several towns in Negri Sembi-

"Panic-stricken have lost confidence, leaving their pigs unfed and roaming агоило," Transport Minister and head



THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



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IN A looming nightmare for the Oscars organisers, the year's top films and actors seem certain to be upstaged on Sunday by a 50-year-old feud over Stalinism and the ethics of betrayal.

Elia Kazan, one of the century's great directors, has refused to apologise for naming eight colleagues with links to the Communist Party at the height of the McCarthy era. As a result, when he receives an honorary Oscar in front of a billion television viewers he may be applauded, booed or met with sullen silence.

Now 89 and in failing health, the cinematic genius behind On the Waterfront and by Hollywood for talking to the notorious House Un-AmerGiles Whittell reports on the furore over the decision to give ostracised

Elia Kazan an honorary award

1952. He has not discussed the affair since declaring bluntly four years ago: "I don't care any more.

But his wife broke the family's silence this week, warning that those who have called for a televised apology: "It's not going to happen."

The decision to recognise

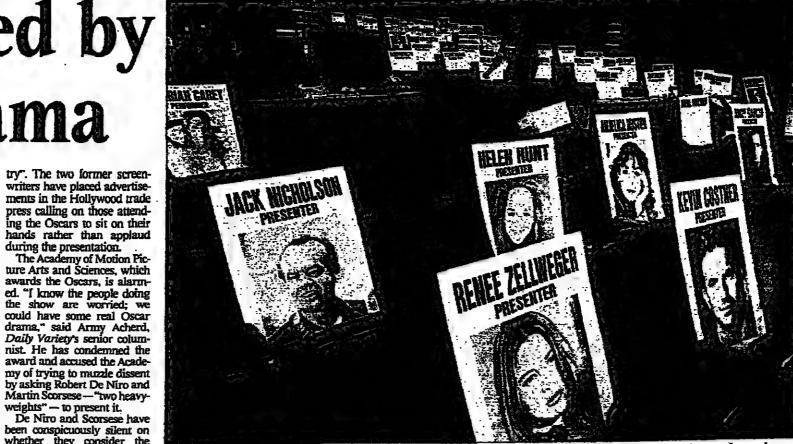
Kazan for his lifetime's work has already overshadowed the duel between Shakespeare in Love and Saving Private Ryan for the year's Best Picture prize. The decison was taken after an impassioned speech by the actor Karl Malden, one

Joseph Fiennes, left, as the lovelorn young Bard, and the writer Tom Stoppard

of the director's oldest friends, but it drew an angry response from those who claim he had wrecked their careers.

Abraham Polonsky, 88. has said of Kazan's award: "I'll be watching, hoping someone shoots him. It would no doubt be a thrill in an otherwise dull evening." Polonsky scarcely worked in Hollywood after the director "outed" him as a Com-

Bernard Gordon, also blacklisted because of Kazan's evidence, has said that he contribliberties violations in the coun-



Placards of stars who are expected to attend the Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles on display during a rehearsal

'Shakespeare in Love' eclipsed by a legal suitor

By GILES WHITTELL

during the presentation.

FOUR days before the Oscars, the makers and writers of Shakespeare in Love have been sued in Los Angeles by a novelist who claims they stole her

Faye Kellerman's Elizabethan in-trigue, The Quality of Mercy, "could well have been subtitled 'Shakespeare in Love," according to the federal law-suit filed on Wednesday, Published ten years ago, its plotline is about a young and impoverished Shakespeare falling for a woman who becomes betrothed to another.

Tom Stoppard and his fellow screen-writer for Shakespeare in Love, Marc Norman, are both named as defendents in the suit along with Miramax, which financed the film, and Universal, which is distributing it.

Ms Kellerman and her lawyer, Barry Novack, are seeking unspecified

The film-makers have not yet re-sponded to the accusations of plagiarism - though they faced similar ones barely a month ago, when devotees of the 1941 British novel No Bed for Ba-con, by Caryl Brahms and S. J. Simon, pointed out that it, too, concerned a

SHOWROOMS

beautiful woman of noble birth pretending to be male in order to act.

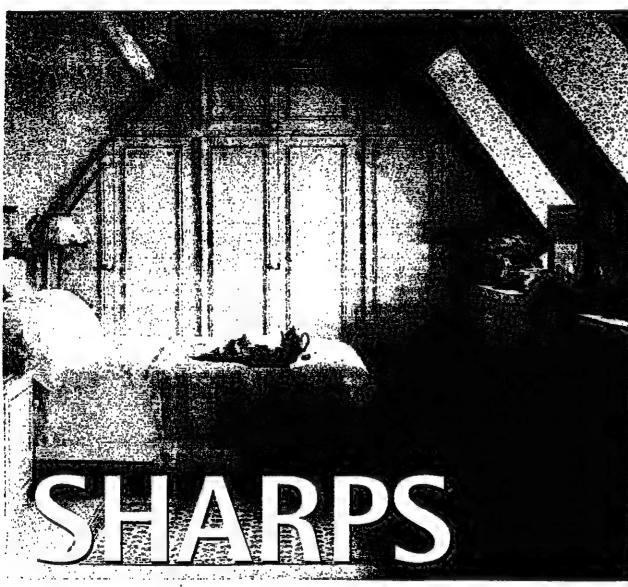
Norman, who wrote the first draft of the Shakespeare in Love screenplay, denied having read No Bed for Bacon. Stoppard admitted "flipping through" it, but said that be found it "of no use". No legal action has yet been filed on behalf of Brahms and Simon, and that complaint was dismissed by Miramax as "little ado about nothing"

Ms Kellerman's lawsuit is clearly timed to cause maximum embarassment, however; it was filed as virtually

young Shakespeare cured of writer's the entire Shakespeare in Love cast block only by a passionate fling with a gathers in Los Angeles to celebrate the film's 13 Oscar nominations.

Plagiarism has been called "a can-cer on Hollywood" by one expert attor-ncy in the field — but is notoriously hard to prove. Lawsuits alleging pilfered material are commonplace whenever a film turns into a hit.

The strongest case in recent years was brought by Barbara Chase-Riboud agains Dreamworks SKG, which she claimed lifted the story of her book, Echo of Lions, for the Steven Spielberg slave mutiny film, Amistad. The suit was settled out of court.

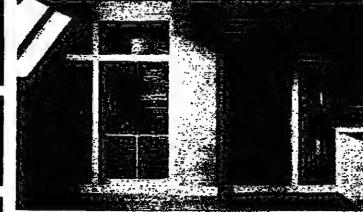


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Missile fears push US to unveil Son of Star Wars

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

RUSSIA and China yesterday attacked America's plans to revive its "Star Wars" missile defence programme. A "Son of Star Wars" was expected to be passed swiftly yesterday in the House of Representatives - a day after being overwhelming-ly endorsed by the Senate. The speed with which Presi-

dent Chinton and his fellow-Democrats have reached agreement with Republicans after years of partisan battling is a reflection of growing worries over the development of missile programmes in North Korea, Iran, Iraq and possibly other rogue states. The final blow came with revelations that China may have stolen

US nuclear missile know-how. The Senate, by a vote of 97 to three, committed America to deploy a defence against limited missile attacks "as soon as technologically possible". The Bill did not specify a time frame or costs, but the Pentagon envisages having radars to track incoming missiles, and land-based interceptor missiles to shoot them down, by 2005. The defences would be a sharply scaled back version of the vast and missile umbrella based in space that was proposed to years ago by Ronald Reagan. His dream proved technical-

ly infeasible and lost its purpose with the Cold War's end. The latest proposal has revived the Russians' objections to Star Wars - that it would breach the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty agreed by Nix-Both gambled that, if nei-

ther side had the means to defend its cities, then neitherwould be the first to launch an attack. In time, trust and confidence engendered by the ABM treaty led to the Start 1 and 2 agreements to reduce nuclear. arsenals.

The Russian Foreign Minis-

try said that the Senate Bill would undermine arms control agreements and posed a serious threat to strategic stability. Russia has been resisting US proposals to amend the ABM treaty to allow limited missile defences.

To underline the point, the State Duma introduced a Bill this week making its delayed ratification of Start 2 conditional on Washington's adherence to the treaty. To placate Moscow, Democrats persuaded Republicans to add opaque language to the Senate Bill saying that America still supports Son of Star Wars must be consistent with policies to reduce Russia's nuclear stockpile.:

US missile defence shield are rooted in fears that similar technology will be used to protect Taiwan. Blunt opposition was expressed by Zhu Rongji, the Prime Minister.

'Please don't kick me,

bite me, crush me, scare me or use me in this way in your festival again!'



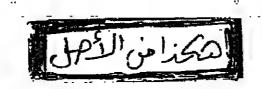
If the donkey used every year at this Festival at Villanueva De La Vera in Spain could talk, he would be pleading with the villagers to stop his torment. Every year they put him through this ordeal and although with the support of the public we are making some progress, we still have much more to do. The IDPT needs your help to fight injustices that happen in places like this and to provide assistance to thousands of donkeys all around the World.

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Blunder

court rele

WORLD IN BRIEF

Ethnic clashes in

Jakarta: At least 43 people have died in two days of clashes between rival ethnic groups armed with knives and swords in a remote corner of Indonesia's Borneo island, police said.

More than 500 houses were set on fire and several of the

victims were dismembered or decapitated. The fighting was

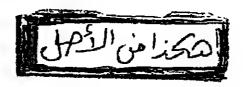
between indigenous Malay villagers and immigrant farmers from the Indonesian island of Madura.

The violence, which started on Wednesday, was the latest

bout of rival ethnic and religious feuding in Indonesia. More than 200 people have been killed in clashes between Christ-

ians and Muslims in the Maluku Islands in the country's east

Borneo kill 43



UN official 'enslaved niece'

A HIGH-RANKING civil servant at Unesco in Paris has been deprived of diplomatic immunity amid accusations that he enslaved and maltreated his niece.

th: 11 19 1999

The unprecedented decision to lift immunity from criminal prosecution underlines the embarrassment of Unesco (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) at the claims made against Gabriel Mpozagara and his wife, Candide, diplomats said yesterday.

The French police have launched a formal investigation into the allegations, which the couple deny. Mr Mpozagara, 58, is paid a basic salary of \$75,000 (£46,000) a year and a living allowance of

Envoy loses immunity as relative says she was beaten and kept in cellar, writes Adam Sage in Paris

tries Section at the United Nations organisation, which was set up to promote "world peace. Yesterday the Mpozagaras' niece. Chantal Nsamiri-zi. spoke publicly for the first time. She told the magazine L'Evénement that she had been beaten and forced to live in the cellar of their huxury mansion on the outskirts of Paris.

Mlle Nsamirizi, 20, said: "My days were always the

\$30,000 as director of the Africa and Least Developed Counand 6am to get breakfast. I did

the cleaning, the ironing, I prepared and served the meals, I cleaned the kitchen and I went to bed at about midnight, sometimes later. I didn't have the right to go out. I was a prisoner."

after the start of the genocide

of a million Tutsis and Hutu

moderates, marked by the

shooting down of President

which might lead to his extra-

dition home. His best hope of

avoiding that fate would be to

give himself up to Belgian authorities in Tanzania and be

She said she had fled her native Burundi after her Tutsi parents were massacred by Hutus in ethnic fighting in 1995. "I would surely be killed if I went back," she told the

Paris by Mme Mpozagara, 53, along with her four sisters, three of whom were subsequently placed with French foster parents. The other sister, Yvette, 14, was also kept in the Mpozagaras' celiar.

We were not allowed to use

the toilets and bathrooms in the house, and if we wanted to wash ourselves, we had to get water with a bucket from the kitchen," said Mlle Nsamirizi. "Sometimes our aunt flew into rages and hit us with her hand or with a broom."

In 1996, French social workers denounced the conditions in which the two girls had been obliged to live. In January, after contacting an antislavery association, they ran away. Police began inquiries at the beginning of January, asking Frederico Mayor, director-general of Unesco, to lift diplomatic immunity. "But he dragged his heels." said the girls' lawyer, Patrick Caillet, I wrote saying that, if he did not lift immunity within a day. ! would go to the press. Within 24 hours of my letter, he had

done so." Human rights workers say the decision to lift immunity is important because diplomats working in Paris have always escaped slavery allegations. "It would seem that there have been quite a few diplomats who have used people from their own countries as slaves," said M Caillet, Mme Mpozagara has since returned to Bu-

former Justice Minister in Burundi, has continued in his job at Unesco's headquarters in Paris. He is one of about 100 directors of the organisation that employs a total of 2,600 people and spends \$544 million (£334 million) a year. Britain rejoined Unesco in 1997 after leaving it 12 years earlier.

The Mpozagaras claim that their niece has been "manipulated" by rights associations.



http://www.unicet.org/ftmright.lates

Treated like royalty

since January. (AP)

Oslo: King Harald of Norway must wait in line for hospital treatment like ordinary patients, a local council ruled after accusing a member of his family of jumping a waiting list for non-emergency treatment. Aftenposten, the daily newspaper, said the unidentified member of the royal family was treated at Oslo's Rikshospitalet hospital instead of waiting for a slot at Akershus, near Oslo - King Harald's official home

Judge overrules US

Miami: A judge ordered that \$6.2 million (£3.8 million) owed to Cuba by US telephone companies can be used to pay compensation to the families of three Cuban-Americans who were killed when their light planes were shot down by the Cuban Air Force over the Straits of Florida in 1996 (David Adams writes). The ruling was made over the objections of the Clinton Administration, which argued that use of the telephone money was unwarranted interference in US foreign policy.

Legionnaires' toll

Amsterdam: An outbreak of legionnaires disease at a Dutch flower show has killed 13 people and infected at least 50, the Health Ministry said. The Government said that up to 200 visitors to last month's Westfriese Flora show in Bovenkarpsel, 40 miles north of Amsterdam, had reported symptoms associated with the pneumonia-like disease. Officials intensified efforts to find the source and opened centres to answer questions from thousands of worried callers. (AP)

Kalashnikov's pistol

Abu Dhabi: Viktor Kalashnikov is following the path set by his father, Mikhail, inventor of the assault rifle, and has launched his own pistol machinegun, the Bizon 2, which is to equip Russia's police force. "The Bizon 2, which has a laser guidance system, is my latest invention. It was bought by the Interior Ministry in the summer of 1998 and I am very proud of it," Mr Kajashnikov, 56, said at the IDEX-99 defence exhibi-

Rainman struck dead

Lagos: A Nigerian rainmaker was killed by lightning this week as he climbed onto a building where a burial wake was being held and tried to divert a rainstorm, the Post Express said. The man, known as Rasaq, was employed by a family in Abeokuta, southwestern Nigeria, to hold off the rain threatening the burial party and had just climbed onto the roof and started appealing to Sango, the Yoruba god of thunder, when lightning struck and threw him to the ground. (AFP)

Blunder as genocide court releases Hutu

By Sam Kiley, africa correspondent

JUDGES at the United Nations Rwandan genocide trials yesterday freed a former major, who was indicted for the murder of the Belgian par-atroops and Rwanda's Prime Minister, because of a bizarre blunder by prosecutors.

Bernard Ntuyahaga, who commanded government soldiers alleged to have beaten the paratroops to death with iron bars, was freed by judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda at Arusha in northern Tanzania after the prosecution decided to drop charges against him there so he could be extradited to Belgium.

But hopes of his facing a Belgian court were shattered when the judges agreed to the dropping of the charges, then ruled unanimously they had no right to extradite prisoners from UN custody to another country. "The tribunal orders the immediate release of Bernard Ntuyahaga," Judge Navanthem Pillay of South Africa told a stunned court.

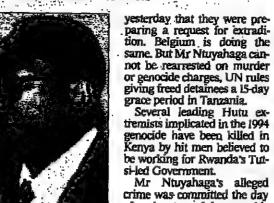
The defendant, also accused of presiding over the rape and evisceration of Agnes Uwilingiyiana, the Prime Minister, was deeply unhappy. Fearful



Ntuyahaga: fears facing Rwandan firing squad

year from Zambia, where he. had been hiding, to surrender to the UN. About a dozen people have been executed in Rwanda for genocide, and tens of thousands jailed in miserable conditions. The maximum penalty the UN can impose is life imprisonment; two mass killers have been given that sentence so far and anoth-

of extradition to Rwanda, deal." he said after he was where he would have faced a freed and then taken back to firing squad if convicted, he his cell where he spent last entered Tanzania illegally last night. Rwandan officials said



Habyarimana's jet at Kigali airport on April 6, 1994. The ten Belgians had been guarding the Prime Minister. a Hutu; under an agreement between Tutsi rebels and the Hutu Government. A moderate who favoured peaceful coexistence between the two groups, she was among the first to die, as her influence could have undone advanced plans for the genocide.

Mr Ntuyahaga could face arrest by immigration officials

er has been jailed for 15 years. "I fear for my safety. I think there has been some kind of



President Mandela of South Africa, on an official visit to Sweden to thank it for its support during the apartheid era, admires the bust of Olof Palme, the former Prime Minister murdered in 1986, before addressing parliament in Stockholm yesterday

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Teacups and why size matters



other day when, wandering down Kensington High Street in pursuit of teacups. I drifted into the Oxiam shop and found, hang-ing on the rail as though it had been waiting for me, a hand-some jacket by Helen Storey in heavy white cotton, printed all over with teacups taken from early 19th-century Wedgwood pattern books.

I can recognise a tap on the shoulder from the finger of fate when I feel one, so I snapped up that jacket and carried it hame in triumph, where it turned out to look just as distinguished as I had hoped with my nice new navy cropped pants from French Connection. On the other hand, I still haven't solved my

teacup problem. The sort of cups I was looking for are nothing like the ones on my jacket—iragile objects in translucent eggshell porcelain, daintily decorated with sprigs of flowers and foliage, or misty classical vistas of riverbanks and ruined temples. I've got lots of little cups like that in my china cup-board, and not one of them ever sees active service - part-ly because I am a terrible butter-fingers, and their chances of emerging unscathed from the washing up process are vir-tually nil. But also because they hold such niggardly

amounts of liquid. I don't like having to drink tea, or coffee for that matter, in weeny sips as though it were rare old Marsala. And I don't care, either at breakfast time or at 5 o'clock, for all the ceremonial fiddling with milk jugs, sugar tongs and slices of lemon that seems to go with thimble-sized bone china cups. What I want are some goodlooking, generously sized cups that hold a sensible amount half a pint, at least.

Of course, they do these things better in France. If I were planning my ideal day, it would begin there. I would

here was a pretty bit wake up in an enormous lit generously sized breakfast of synchronicity the bateau, in a certain room overlooking the sea, with the light pouring in through the gaps in the shutters, the smell of coffee rising from downstairs, accompanied by the comfortable sound of someone else getting the breakfast ready. And on the tray, when it arrived, next to the coffee pot and the crossant, there would be a huge proper, blue and white breakfast cup filled to the brim

with cafe au lait. At least one of my prim and proper French friends tells me that this is a lamentable lapse of taste and that no respectable French housewife would give shelf room to coffee bowls or oversized breakfast cups, but I don't care. Every time

cross the Channel I try to the breakage rate is very high, and it occurs to me that it must be possible to restock without having to take the Eurostar every time. What I want is something unpretentious, easily replaced and good-looking enough to bring a whiff of my idyllic fantasy levée even to the horrid reality of the breakfast table at home at 7.30 on a week-

day morning. You might think Peter Jones, that great palace of quintessential Englishness, an eccentric place in which to start the search for Frenchified crockery. But you would be wrong. When you first step into the china department there seems to be nothing but mugs - all very well for nursery tea, but not exactly reeking of Gallic glamour. But press on towards the linen department and there emerges a miraculous selection of pretty.

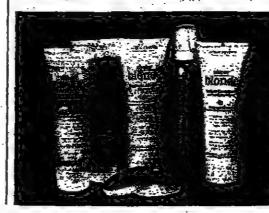
ware in speckled lapis lazuli bine, offset with pale lemon or pistachio at £8.95 for a cup, E6.75 a saucer. If you share my weakness for the French bourgeois look, Gien's Bird of Paradise-pattern earthenware, with fancy scalloped edges, is perfect at £11.70 a cup, £8.50 a saucer and £11.50 for a little breakfast plate.

Less fancy but still very charming is Chanticleer, a bright blue cockerel with a scarlet comb trudging through a blue and white snowstorm on breakfast cups, £10.50, sau-cers, £6.50, and plates, £5.95. If you prefer monocirrome at breakfast time, Emma Bridgewater's huge cream cup printed in black classical letters with "Good Strong Tea" and "Café au Lait" might be the

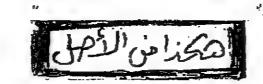
very thing at £19.95.
At Heals there is a pretty. summery Coquillage design with blue starfish and shells on pure white porcelain, 522.25 for a cup and saucer, and at Habitat plain white French porcelain coffee bowis with a silver run are £6.95

each, matching plates £5.95. Even better, for impoverished students, or anyone else with a sense of style and a tiny budget, is The Pier, where white earthenware bowls with a blue stripe and matching plates are just £1 each, and huge, hand-painted earthenware cups and saucers in swirly sky blue, almond green or palest harebell blue are £6.95 each.

Bhs has handsome Portuguese-painted earthenware. The nicest pattern, of splodgy cherries and peaches on a pale lemon background, comes only in a rather mean-sized cup and saucer, but there are generous cup-shaped mugs and small plates at £6 apiece and, almost as pretty, a cheer-ful yellow breakfast cup with a scattering of red and blue flowers stinny enough to bring a suggestion of spring to the gloomiest breakfast table.



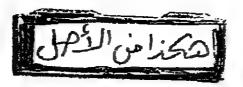
Dull blonde hair can be given a spring gleam with a new range of hair-care products. The shampoo and conditioner are £4,25 each: Illac-tinted glossing creme and mousse, and hair halm with glitter are each \$3,95. Street Blonde by John Frieda. from Boots nationwide.



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What? You haven't had an award yet?

didn't want to be the one to have to tell you this, especially after you spent so much on for the harsh fact that such a victothat outlit, but I'm afraid you have not won an award this morning unless you happen to be Demi It was close. And we were all so

impressed by the way you abided by the ancient awards ceremony tradition, whereby all nominees use enough hairspray to qualify of ficially as a fire bazard if placed near hot cigarette ash. But I'm afraid you missed out this time.

Actually, it's worse than that. As you are now one of only six people left in Britain who has not won an award for something. This means you have yet to enjoy that emotional experience of brandshing a shirty trooky is fewer of the half. shiny trophy in front of a hall full.
of people, all of whom are enthusiastically shricking "why him?"
But the fact of the matter is that
at your age, you really should have

it's as well to prepare yourself now unless you happen to be Demi Moore, in which case it upsets almost everybody). Even Al Gore has won an award, and he has less star quality than head lice:

And there are so many awards to choose from today. There are film awards, play awards, book and art awards, pop awards, TV awards, singing awards, awards for best pipe smoker, best specia-cles weaver, best moustache-waxer. sportsman of the year awards, No-bel Peace Prizes, best commercial, best tie-wearer, best chef, best tablecloth in an Italian restaurant - and you haven't won any of them. You could always play the aloof card, like Sartre, and refuse the

Nobel Prize for Literature on the

ground that, like Jean-Paul, you

wish to be read only by people who feel like reading your books, rather than by what he dismissively called "celebrity collectors".

But this attitude might seem a bit rich if you haven't actually been to bed with Simone de Beauvoir.

Or you haven't written several depressing novels about men who felt they didn't exist unless they did something drastic but who, having done something drastic, then be-came very nauseous. At the very least you should have eyes that stare out at the world in opposite directions, as if they've had a tiff and neither is quite ready yet to un-fold its arms and bury the hatcher. On the other hand, if you do have problems with your optical alignment, it's not too late to catch a flight to Los Angeles for Sunday's Oscars ceremony, where physical or mental disability is dis-

proportionately rewarded by

Hollywood (provided, of course, you don't have a genuine disability, in which case you can't get your foot in a producer's door — even if you have a foot. The disabilities that Hollywood prefers to fête are confected ones, such as Daniel Day Lewiss in My Left Foot, or Jack Nicholson's in One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest, or Geoffrey Rush as the unbinged virtuoso in Shine, or the blind Audrey Hepburn in Wait Until Dark).

hat makes the Oscars such a benchmark in the awards calendar is that members of the American Academy of Motion Pictures cast their votes by means of a special voting system which, because it is both confidential and also uses the latest hacker-proof computer technology, can be relied on always to threev up the most undeserving

To be frank, leaving it so late has probably ruined your chances of bagging one of the Academy's main prizes. But that doesn't mean you couldn't be a contender for one of the many awards dished out under "other categories", defined as "films you would never pay to see, even if the only alternative was staying at home and watching Demi Moore in Striptease".

But if you still come home empty-handed, don't despair. It can only be a matter of time before an award is created that fits you like a glove. Today there are so many rival awards for films and books that companies hoping to sponsor a new award have to be inventive if they want to find space on the mantelpiece for another bronze statuette, which explains the Footwear Federation Awards for Films in which Actors Wear Shoes of

er Materials. Am 1 right in think-ing that could just be you?

This hunger for awards also provides Tony Blair with a unique opportunity. Since he is committed to democratising the aristocrary, and since earldoms and dukedoms are the Oscars of the Old World, Blair should put all aristocratic titles — or "awards" — up for grabs in open competition. All titles could be awarded to British citizens after an annual vote by their peers. A postman might wake up to find he had been given the

award for Best Duke of York, 1999. This would be an innovative way of keeping the nation's historic titles alive, while also injecting more fair play and social mobility into British society. And believe me, if you are not a shoo-in for Leading Marquess in a Support-ing Role, it'll be a travesty.

Why I gave it all up to be a witch

Witchcraft is a fast-growing spiritual practice in America. Phyllis Curott, once a celebrity lawyer, takes her new calling seriously. Should we? Interview by Noreen Taylor

with the features of Carly Simon, dressed in Donna Karan and speaking with the eloquence of a poet looks perfectly at home in the lobby of a smart London hotel. She also acts the part, exhibiting the kind of breezy conlidence one expects from a successful New York lawyer. But Phyllis Curon has long and Olympia Dukakis

turned her back on a high-powstars. So, Phyllis, you're now a full-time witch?

"I am, and thank you for coming to see me." Why would you, a seeming-

ly intelligent woman, call yourself a witch and high priestess? Are you fond of derision? "I can joke about pointy black hats, like the rest. I ve got

a sense of humour. I've heard all the stereotypical stuff before cackling, toothless hags flying around on broomsticks, invoking evil spells. I listen for a while, then I pull the plug and get serious. because the demonisation of witches is inextricably bound up with patriarchal religions and the tyranny women have suffered through-

out history. "The word witch comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word wicce, meaning wise one. Using the term 'witch' forces the world to confront its negative stereotypes and the dark history of misogyny from which those stereotypes have sprung." Curott is keen to banish more myths. Witches do not wear black, preferring mostly "jewel colours" such as blue, green and red.

We do not worship the Devil," she says. There was no Devil in the pre-Christian religion of goddesses. Nor do we cast spells

to harm people — it's a grave violation of Wiccan spirituality to use power to control another. Witches learn to work with the energy present in the natural world, to transform themselves. Magic is bringing one's own divine power into

manifestation." OK, so when she poured the tea there was no need to worry about the pot containing the eye of a newt and the toe of a frog. It's all more serious, right? Formally known as the High Priestess of the Circle of

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Ara, the president of the Covenant of Goddesses; Curott claims witchcraft is one of the fastest-growing spiritual prac-tices in the United States. Eventhe famous are drawn to it in the preface to her book, she names four women who have come out in public as believers in the new goddess: Tori Amos, Cybill Shepherd, Erica

Sisterhood is powerful. drew up diffiliacis for rock- women in the media who support and perceive what I am doing and who have helped me to reach a wider audience. Witchcraft empowers women. You stop taking crap. You say "I'm sorry boys, move over. You don't have the one true way'. By so doing, you are challenging the last bastion of the

patriarchal structure. "I've toured 20 cities in the

tence. "I wouldn't be involved if it was all a question of belief. What charges my batteries is evidence, experiences. You know what would be marvellous now? If I was at home I could invite you to one of my circles to do a bit of journeying.

Everything would become so much clearer then. You would lie on the floor with the rest of my group, close your eyes and think, 'Oh this is so mcomfortable'. Then I would start-drumming, you would eventually relax, breathe deeply, and begin to have visions.

When I stopped drumming you'd sit up and talk about your visions with the others in the circle, and you'd find that you had shared the same images. You'd think you had been imagining it all, but you would have experienced something true and real."

In reality witches eschew black in favour of "jewel colours" such as red or green

US talking to audiences about magic, relling them of the inner journeys I've made. Afterwards, women come up to me saying 'I know exactly what you're talking about. I've had those flashes that have turned out to be premonitions, too'." She senses that her stories of inner journeys are not convincing me and stops mid-sen-

re-empowering the believer and helping her towards achieving goals. I think I've got it right. Anyway. I found myself wondering silently if that was how Cybill Shepherd landed her TV series Cybill when Curott suddenly said: "Cybill eventually got the show she wanted through a Renewing your home insurance combination of techniques learnt through spiritual pracin March or April? tices." Spooky or what! Being a witch, says Curott confident-If you are 50 or over call free! ly, is not a rejection of science.

into a world of superstition. " I am the daughter of intellectuals. My parents brought me up to believe in ideals, not in religion. When I was a law student and began to have experiences I couldn't find answers for, I didn't go to the world of gurus and mystics. I £15.99

nor is it a regressive step back

This evidently has material

benefits. Curott says the visual-

isation leads to energy, which

one takes away from the circle,



Phyllis Curott, the High Priestess of the Circle of Ara: "Many women in the media support what I am doing ... Witchcraft empowers women, you stop taking crap'

searched in the rational world. and found that the answer to my flashes, telepathic visions and intuitions - too many to ignore, I might tell you - lay in science, in the study of quantum physics.

"Scientists now recognise that human beings have a remarkable capacity in ecstatic states of consciousness to integrate with the Universe, slowing our heartheat, moving back in time, having out-of-body experiences. There are many such examples."

Curou's husband, the photographer Bruce Fields, joins us. He is also a witch because men can also be witches. Warlocks are, it appears, so yesterday. Since meeting Pmyl-

lis I've become active in

the movement. I'm worried about the world and how we are all killing ourselves," says Fields. He then emharks on a history lesson about shamans. Native Americans. aborigines — old civilisations that did not, he claims, use the world as a warehouse of disposables. Curott asks: "Shall we tell you how we met?"

Yeah, let's tell her," says Bruce excitedly. We met in a dream six years ago," she daps her hands excitedly. "I was divorced, dating like crazy, but bored. I decided I wanted love in my life. So on my birthday, when I get to do. like, introspective goals, and

give gratitude to the goddess within, I made a love spell. Then I asked the sage of the Universe to give me a sign. so I'd know it was him. That night I dreamt of a dark, handsome man who was wearing a leather jacket and sitting on a Harley-David-

son motorbike. Eight months

later some friends invited me

to dinner to meet a friend of

theirs. Guess who? Bruce. Yes, Bruce. On a Harley." Well, dear reader, it worked for her. If you require a love spell, not to mention inspiration spells, success spells and instructions on how to make a protective annulet, her book reveals all. Broomsticks and

newts are not required. Book of Shadows: Rediscovering the Ancient Wisdom of Witchcraft and Magic by Phyllis Curott, Piatkus Books,



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The worst of all possible **Europes**

Bernard Connolly fears a new

Reich of tribalism and corruption

he European Commission is a corrupt institu-tion. It is corrupt because there is no ultimate accountability to the taxpayers of the European Union countries, who provide the money that the Commission then misuses. It cannot be resolved

by a change of faces.

And it goes beyond the Commission. The top dog in the EU structure - the Council of Ministers - is equally unaccountable (and shares with Cuba and North Korea the dubious distinction of being the only political entity that legislates in secret). Lack of accountability is built into the EU structure, which is not only undemocratic but deliberately anti-democratic.

If Europe were federal, then the role of unelected commissioners would disappear and they would be replaced by ministers in a European Government. The executive might then, in theory, be accountable there is no chance of that. The people of most EU countries simply do not want it. Perhaps more important, politicians and bureaucrats are far too enamoured of Europe's "democratic deficit", and of the opportunities for unaccountable power — and in some cases personal financial profit - it brings. "Europe" is quite simply the most effective way anyone has thought up, short of dictatorship, for

evading democratic control. Proud Why are electorates prepared to put up with such nations are institutional corruption? The conbeing ventional answer. stated most nakedreduced to ly by Helmut Kohl, the former German Chancellor, is empty that without "Europe" there will be

symbolism war: with "Europe" there will be defend the EU's incursions into British freedom and democracy by saying that, in effect, there would always be an England. But it would not be the England — and still less the Britain — of Queen. Parliament and Common Law. Instead, he said. Brussels would always let spinsters

cycle home from church: warm beer would be there to compete with lager; village greens would resound to the thwack of willow on leather. Major was probably too optimistic about how long these English eccentricities would survive the prying eyes pose he was right. He would

of eurocrat zealots. But supthen be defining our identity in terms of a set of cultural myths. The French coined the deliberately mocking franglais term folklorique to describe just this kind of hooey. But now the French themselves. once a proud, free and democratic nation, are increasingly reduced to the same empty symbolism as a poor substiture for independent state-The great genius of the

British and French polities something they have in common with the United States was that a nation was successfully created out of allegiance to political institutions. This has allowed those nations to become, to a greater extent than in any of the other European countries, genuinely multicultural and relatively tolerant. Let "Europe" take away that allegiance by destroying the relevance of domestic institutions and the British and French nations would dissolve. The ineradica-ble desire of human beings for a sense of belonging would then be expressed in tribal ways: through race, language, religion, sexual orientation, accent — and through hostility to anyone with different tribal

characteristics. The promotion of Frenchness and Englishness in cultural terms will be an open invitation to racists. If Britain and France are subsumed into "Europe", those excluded from the majority tribe within each country will have to defend themselves against all-too-profitable harassment — the harassment is already happening, if so far in mild form, in those flowers of "the Europe of the Regions", Scotland and Flanders. Postwar Europe has seen the horrors of Northern Ireland, Bosnia and Kosovo. As political nations are brought tumbling down by the EU, it

Germany, of course, has never been a political nation, and has been all the worse for that historic absence. German-ness has always been defined in ethnic terms; even today, proposals to allow Ger-

may yet see more such hor-

man nationality to ethnic Turks born in Germany are considered shocking. As "a nation without a state", 19th-century Germany defined itself first in the "cultural" terms of Roman-

tics such as Fichte and Herder and subsequently in the economic terms of the Zollverein. When the Greater Prussian empire was created, its lack of the political institutions of a democratic nation-state,

combined with its unremitting hostility to the non-statist called "Anglo-Saxon" world, made it a dangerously dynamic force, ultimately destroying that balance of power that had contributed so much to European peace. German experience suggests that Kohl's thesis is completely wrongheaded. Worryingly, if Europe is evolving at all, it is evolving

not towards a nation-state but towards an empire, along the lines of the Prussian-dominated Wilhelmine bureaucratic Reich, though perhaps with dominion exercised jointly by Germany and France. It thus threatens to provide the worst of all worlds. The increasing difficulty of providing for accountability within such a structure will mean that institutional corruption flourishes. Yet the effective destruction of national democracy will risk creating both political terrorism and tribal conflict. Idealism, however mistaken, may have played some part in the motivation of early postwar advocates of a united Europe. Today, sadly, is hard to believe that anyone can be genuinely idealistic about the EU. It is much easier to believe that the proponents of "Europe" are cynical to the point of evil.

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A song for Ireland

ill Clinton is becoming the ham actor of Irish diploma-

cy. At the White House on Wednesday night, he just managed to keep a straight face and solemnly tell his Ulster guests to resolve their differences" before Good Friday. He flashed his sequins, danced a jig and put some more bourbon on ice. Resolving Northern Ireland has always seemed that simple to the expatriate Irish of America. Indeed, all the world's allments seem simple from within that mighty fortress. It is as if the tears of nations could be dried by dropping a bomb, signing a cheque or squeezing a hand on the White House lawn. I once stood on the beach in Beirut and watched a vast American battleship nonchalantly lobbing shells into the mountain villages behind me. It was under orders from President Reagan to "do something about Leba-

non". The ship then steamed off

home. "Thar'll teach the Ay-rabs to

mess with Uncle Sam," said an American platitudes will never solve Ulster's differences. The peace process is neither peaceful nor a process. It is merely another chapter in a six-year-old saga of jaw-jaw amid low-intensity war-war, to which we bore sad witness yesterday in Portadown. Those who have watched governments mishandle Northern Treiand for years teeter between rage and despair. Perhaps, as Eliot said, humankind cannot bear very much reality. But we are entitled to ask, after 30 years, how much longer this unreality is to continue. So much hot air, so many conferences, so many corpses, and

for what? More photo opportunities. The 1998 Good Friday agreement was flawed for precisely the reasons stated at the time. It was never an agreement. Nobody so much as shook hands. It was merely a muted acceptance of an unbalanced list of putative concessions. The IRA would get all its men out of jail and sit in a new assembly and on its executive, handsome reward for three decades of mayhem. Unionists said they would buy this on one condition. If they were to share the running of the Province with members of the IRA, the IRA should be visibly and completely disarmed. The leaders of Britain and Ameri-

ca, powerful men before whom even the tyrannical Saddam and Milosevic are supposed to quail, pledged themselves to achieve this disarmament. They have failed. The IRA has White House cabaret turns and platitudes

are no solution to Ulster's tragedy

called their bluff. The deal was clear, so the deal must be off. The Unionist leader, David Trimble, may let ambition get the better of him, and try next week to set up an executive of sorts. But if he does he will go the way of Terence O'Neill and Brian Faulkner, Ulster leaders before him. If Mr Trimble rules the Province with the present IRA/Sinn Fein, his followers will desert and he will fall, rammed on to his sword by London's ineptitude. If he rules without the IRA, he will rule honestly, but almost certainly with-

nationalists, which destroys the whole point. Even if miracles

utive is set up with consent, it will fail. Power sharing has been tried three times before, in different guises, in 1973, 1975 and 1982. As Vernon Bogdanor points out in his new study Devolution in the United Kingdom (OUP). Stormont was always meant as a

against Irish Home Rule. It was inevitably a symbol of a paranoid, one-party state. It presided over the freezing of the Province into one of Europe's most politically primitive enclaves, a freeze that direct rule has

Executive power-sharing is a concept of great delicacy, demanding a spirit of compromise and tolerance among group leaders and followers. The idea that it could be imposed on Northern Ireland has always been ludicrous. Its use to heal the wounds of a divided community might apply - I know not where - if the community were eager to make sacrifices for that

The recent history of Stormont has been of wounds kept open, paraded, bled. Yet power-sharing at Stormont is still the policy of the London Government, even as it

approaches its fourth collapse. Not since the Great War has a British high command seemed so bereft of exits from a well-dug trench. Of course there is an alternative. There always is in politics. The most likely is the continuance of direct rule. Ever since 1973, British ministers have parroted the truism that peace will not come until the men of violence are defeated". They have used the existence of the IRA as an excuse for avoiding reform. Ulster has become the fatted calf sucking on the British tax-

payer's udder, as its middle class knows to its profit. The made Ulster relative-

its mind on devolution, and devolve not to regional power-sharing but to the counties and cities which were foolishly stripped of power at the time of direct rule. County and city government still exists in England. It is hardly radical. councils would be dominated by one or other

community, albeit under a British security and civil rights umbrella. But political power in the Province overall would be "shared" geographically, rather than centrally. Anyone worried that this might lead to ethnic cleansing should study the demographic polarisation in Ulster under British rule: worse than anything under the

so-called Protestant ascendancy. This option might at least begin to rebuild Northern Irish politics through responsible local democrats, instead of the present raucous cheerleaders. The councils would be small, but no smaller than such units in many European countries. They would bring to the fore a new generation of local leaders, in place of today's extinct volcanoes. The performance of the present Belfast and Londonderry city councils, the strongest existing democratic units in Ulster, is promising. They have not proved the timpot cauldrons of bigotry at which direct-rule officials love to sneer. They offer a way out of the impasse. Mr Trimble could always run for mayor of Belfast. The violence will continue.

As long as Britain rules any of Ireland there will be violence, emanating as much from the old IRA families in the villages of Armagh and Tyrone as from the politics of Belfast. When an ageing Official IRA declared its ceasefire in 1962, it took just seven years for the younger Provisionals to form. Now they have aged and ceased fire in turn. The banner is passing to the splinters, reinforced by those streaming out of Mo Mowlam's jails.

be way to handle such violence is not by freezing local politics, which has been British policy for 30 disastrous years. Nor is the answer to glamorise the men of violence and offer them a de facto veto on political reform: the trap into which They should be marginalised as criminals and not let out of jail. Leadership and responsibility should be built on revived local democracy, not the esteem of the panjandrums of Stormont. This great conflict, after all, is about nothing but local democracy. American civies have been as divided and violent as any community in Northem Ireland. America's response has not been to suspend local politics and send in federal commissioners. It has been the exact opposite, to leave mayors, community leaders and police chiefs to graft their own solutions. The approach has been mostly successful. That should be America's advice to Northern Ire-

British policy is on the brink of another humiliation. The American President has been hauled in to "sponsor" a dud plan to enfranchise two million Britons, and an IRA leader has gone to the White House and defied him. If Gerry Adams were an African or arr Arab or even a Serb. Tomahawks would by now be thudding into his "hideouts" in Armagh and West Belfast. But Mr Adams is white, and kith and kin. So he is merely a bit of a card. We raise a glass to St Patrick, and strike up the band. It plays The Wearing of The Green and The Sash My Father Wore... to the tune of Direct

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Bianca booster

BIANCA JAGGER has been called in by the Liberal Democrats as they prepare to lose Paddy Ashdown. She is to be presented to the party faithful in London next week as its latest secret weapon when she appears as guest of honour at a direct at the National Liberal Club. to raise money for the European elections. Bianca, pictured, was attracted not so much by Paddy's mascoline appeal, as by the Lib-Dem policy on human rights. Senior bods suggest the evening will prove so joily that she will make more high-profile appearances.



THE Royal Institute of International Affairs is having a conference on correction, with a to the field, Sir Leon Brittan.

WINSTON CHURCHILL was closely linked to the release of the Zinoviev Letter which brought down the first Labour Government, an historian on intelligence claims. David Stafford, of Edinburgh University, is to revise his Churchill and Secret Service for Little, Brown after the publication of the Foreign Office's report into the smear which brought down Ramsay MacDonald's first Labour administration. The report mentioned the involve-

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ment of Joseph Ball and Sir Desmond Morton, but did not mention their intimate relationship with Churchill. Stafford says the two spooks supplied Winnie with sensitive into to damage opponents. "The FO report raises significant pointers to Churchill," says Staf-

ford. "In the Twenties and Thirties, he was of the view that Labour was in bed with Reds."

ON the eve of the Brussels report, Neil Kinnock was unbowed at a jolly leaving party, confident that he would land the plum job of Foreign Affairs Commissioner.

JAMES BOND has sold his caravan. Roger Moore is putting his mobile home in Malta on the market because he does not have time to visit the island. He fell in love with Malta after

filming there a decade ago and bought the caravan while looking for a suitable villa. But after a recent trip to the communal showers, he finally admitted defeat.

SIR Peter Hall, John Tusa, Sir Alan Ayckbourn and a cornucopia of disgruntled artistic worthies are ganging up to stalk Chris Smith. I gather they will launch the Shadow Arts Council next Wednesday to harangue the charming Culture Secretary for more money for their pet projects.



THE impending literary battle between John Major and Lord Lamont of Lerwick as they write their memoirs is far from being a level playing field.
"I was a little alarmed to see that

Mr Major has an army of people helping him to write his book." Norm tells me. "I have an army of one — me. It's Lamont against the world, as always."

GROVELLING in the Upper House after Baroness Jay of Paddington missed a page of her speech. "The pages stuck together," her unsavoury secretary barks. "And she apologised. OK?"

AFIER undermining Peter Jay, Eban Davis has turned to marriage. The economics editor of Newsnight, not the marrying type, has been promoting gay weddings in Prospect. "Gay and lesbian couples should be offered some kind of marriage arrangement. There's no reason to imagine gay couples are different from their heterosexual counterparts." I trust he cleared his letter with Sir John

JASPER GERARD

'There was murder in Mayfair, on trains, in airships, in Palm Court lounges, between the acts. We had nothing like it in West Cork'

n the quite brief time of the British Literature Prize's ex-istence, it has become some-istence, it has become something of a tradition for the recipient to speak a little about his or her writing life. Strictly speaking, I suppose, mine began in a small schoolroom in Skibbereen when, as an alternative to parsing and analysis. I was occasionally required to compose six sentences on such random subjects as A Wet Afternoon or A Day in the Life of a Dog. I did my best, but even at seven I believe I probably guessed that there was more to words and what you did with them than recording rainfall or reporting that our smooth-haired fox-terrier was infatuated by our cat.

My world at that time was not extensive. There was memory, as far back as it would go, and the modest reality of Škibbereen. which afterwards became memory also: "A mile and a half it was, drapery, where you could buy oilcloth as well as dresses. Pots of geraniums nestled among chops and ribs in butchers' windows. A sunburnt poster advertised the arrival of Duffy's Circus a year ago. Horses trudged slowly, carts laden with a single churn for the creamery. On fair-days farmers stood stoically by their animals, booing for the best. On fair-days there was a smell of whiskey and sawdust and stout. "You made the journey home

again at three, the buying and selling over, the publican's takings safely banked, the last of the dung sliding to the gutters. If you had money you spent it on liquorice pipes or stuff for making lemonade that was delicious if you ate it as it was. The daughters of Power's drapery sometimes had money. But they

William Trevor

were always far ahead, on bicycles because they were wellto-do. Or their mother drove them in the Hillman because of

Expanding my world. I began with the school stories: with hockey practices and midnight feasts, beloved head girls and dubious mesdemoiselles, the odd Bolshevik spy. Arctic exploration could not have been stranger, and I read until I had read everything, then turned to Dr Fu Manchu. After that it was the rugged decency of Buildog Drummond, and a hundred or so gentlemanly private detec-

All over England, it seemed to me, bodies were being discovered by housemaids in libraries. Village poison pens were tirelessly at work. There was murder in not to know how the thing is

Mayfair, on trains, in airships, in Palm Court lounges, between the acts. Golfers stumbled over corpses on fairways. Chief consta-bles awoke to them in their gardens. We had nothing like it

omewhere in that communication, in the exhilara-tion of one imagination touching another, I sensed a marvel. I did not then know that this particular variation of creating something out of nothing mood and image invented and transferred, lines of dialogue becoming people - was simply the art and craft of storytelling. Nor did I know that I was already the victim of storytell-

ing's temptation. I've always thought it's best done. Marvel it may be, but it's a tion came early, I did not mystery too; and analysing can seriously succumb to it until I be destructive. Interviewers ask questions that seem reasonable enough and yet the answers are clusive. Have I known a man like Mr Hilditch in a recent novel of mine? Or a boy like Timothy Gedge in an earlier one? Or a Mrs Eckdorf or a Mrs da Tanka?

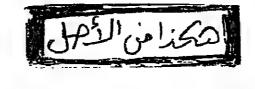
It's a bit of a muddle, I tend to say - the writer and the person untidily overlapping, yet sometimes hardly knowing one another. It's true that, to a degree, all fiction is autobiographical: the litmus paper endlessly dipped into personal experience, since the euphoria of happiness, the ache of grief or pain must of course be the storyteller's own. Memory hovers over the past like a figure with a metal-detector on a used-up beach. Yet far more of fiction's raw material comes out of nowhere.

Although storytelling's tempta-

was in my mid-thirties and had come to know well the England I had once imagined. By now I'd seen the lazy undulations of the Cotswolds, patches of sheep guarded by trimstone walls, old women at dusk strolling in their villages, itinerants at dawn moving through the fields, the sea at Sidmouth. I had known the beer-blurred underworld of Soho. I had frequented the last of the Corner Houses and watched the rise of the high-rise flats. The first short stories I ever wrote were set in London. For what has happened since you have kindly given me this prize.

The author is the winner of the British Literature Prize 1999. This article is an extract from his acceptance speech.

Philip Howard returns next week



ALWAYS WITH US

Blair joins the cast of politicians seeking to end poverty

Fany Blair yesterday chose the Beveridge Lecture at Toynbee Hall to add to his famed five "early pledges" another somewhat later one. His call for an end to child obverty in Britain within 20 years is an abjective on a vastly different scale from first of reducing NHS waiting lists or school class sizes. There is much to be said in favour of deadlines in political life especially when the aim itself may be universally acclaimed as laudable. It is less certain whether that applies when, as in firs case, the timescale is so long and the erminology involved distinctly uncertain. Mr Blair is hardly the first politician of the Centre-Left to seek the elimination of poverty. It has been a constant theme, at poverty. It has been a constant theme, at the rhetorical level at least, for every Liberal or Labour Government this century. The Liberal administration that came to power in 1905 contained the first such set of

> very old, the thrust of this drive against poverty consisted of measures designed to improve the mobility and quality of labour. Winston Churchill, then President of the Board of Trade, thought that the introduction of employment exchanges alone would have an enormous and positive impact. The Asquith Government combined the ethical tone of the Victorian age with the emerging social tools of a new era. It mixed public and private provision and recognised that there were limits to what could be imposed through centralised bureaucra-

It is

crusaders. Although specific measures

were enacted to protect the very young and

aspects of national squalor banished. But poverty itself was certainly not eradicated. Thirty years later it fell to two more Liberals - John Maynard Keynes and Sir William Beveridge - to take on what the father of the present welfare state would describe as the "abolition of want" from

cy. Much was achieved and the worst

society. Their liberalism was, however, of a more egalitarian and state-centred form than that which had come earlier. As such it was more than acceptable to Clement Attlee and his colleague, Aneurin Bevan, in the 1945 Labour Government. These apostles of a New Jerusalem were confident that an infrastructure had now been secured that would remove poverty.

They were destined to be disappointed. Although absolute poverty had become extremely scarce, it was evident by the 1960s that even full employment and a large welfare state could not prevent vast disparities in incomes. The Wilson Governments sought to extend the Beveridge model in a piecemeal manner but found themselves overwhelmed by the wider, and ultimately unsuccessful, struggle to salvage what they could of social democracy. Most Labour activists, by contrast, had concluded by the 1970s that all poverty and unemployment was the inevitable and involuntary consequence of capitalism.

The substance of the Prime Minister's speech was somewhat more significant that the soundbite that accompanied it. Mr Blair outlined an approach that combats social exclusion through work, favours action against the cultural as well as economic aspects of poverty and concedes a larger role for the private sector. Although entitled "the Beveridge Lecture" his words were closer in spirit to those that inspired. Mr Asquith rather than Mr Attlee.

This is not a distinction that Mr Blair deems it diplomatic to dwell upon in public orations. It is, however, the factor that offers him the opportunity to affect real change, if not on the ambitious scale of ending child poverty that he suggested. It will need to be addressed far more openly if his many admirable ambitions for welfare reform are to be translated into action.

RUSSIA'S RING

Where a sex scandal video is but one of the punches

Shadow-boxing, that favoured game of Russia's politicians when their president is too weak to keep them under control, has got out of hand. This time, for once, it may draw real blood.

A pomographic keybole video shown on television yesterday — revealing Russia's — mex-prosecutor, Yuri Skuratov, in bed with two women — was unremarkable in itself in a country where dirty tricks long ago replaced policy initiatives. Before he mysteriously resigned six weeks ago, Mr Skuratov had dug enough dirt on his own rivals, including the business tycoon Boris Berezovsky, to make a counter-attack almost inevitable.

The latest infighting could deal sickly President Yeltsin a blow from which he no longer has the strength to recover. For the past eight years, Mr Yeltsin's one tactic for retaining supreme power has been to keep underlings at each others' throats. Periodically, he steps in as referee, knocks heads together, and fires anyone powerful enough to be a personal threat. This time, however, Mr Skuratov's supporters have mustered enough courage to take on the President himself.

Mr Skuratov has boxed clever by hinting that he is being picked on by a broad grouping of the wealthy pro-market politicians whom leftwingers, and ordinary Russians, love to hate. His claim that they include corrupt government ministers, ex-ministers and Central Bank officials was enough in itself to unite the disparate forces of the Left behind him. After months of uneasy truce behind which politicians quietly pursued individual ambitions and vendettas. Russian politics has again become home to a broad, hostile grouping

of leftists on the warpath. When, on Wednesday, Mr Skuratov

openly defied the President by saying he planned to stay in his job, he found powerful allies. Unexpectedly, he was backed by the Federation Council which is made up of regional governors who usually obey the President's every whim. They refused to accept Mr Skuratov's resignation. Simultaneously, the Communist dominated State Duma is planning its annual impeachment attempt.

Russia's elite is in bad shape to fight off a surprise challenge. Weeks of rumours that Mr Yeitsin was planning to sack his centrist Prime Minister, the Soviet-era grandee Yevgeni Primakov, were denied this week by both President and Prime Minister. But Mr Primakov's fate may yet be sealed if debt negotiations with the IMF next week go hadly. There is continuing uncertainty over whether the unpredictable President might anyway shed a few left-wing ministers. From his bed, where he is recovering from a bleeding stomach ulcer, Mr Yeltsin has kept Russia guessing as to whom he will favour next, firing Mr Berezovsky from one post, flirting with the liberal economist Grigori Yavlinsky and Yegor Stroyev, Speaker of the Federation Council and Anatoli Chubais, cheerleader for the pro-reform faction, but making no binding commitments. Mr Yeltsin's presidency is in endgame.

At best, he has 15 months left in the Kremlin. III health makes it uncertain whether he will survive even that long. Russia's economy is in a mess and its relations with the West at a low ebb. As new conflict looms, the two strongest outside presidential contenders, Moscow's Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and the Governor of Krasnoyarsk, Aleksandr Lebed, are waiting quietly outside the ring to see how this week's fight shapes up.

GENETIC MENU

A lightly cooked up fraud upon the food-buying public

The best and worst of British caterers, from the greasy spoon to the Ritz, will have to bone up, and at some speed, on their molecular genetics. Yesterday Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, announced that regulations on the labelling of genetically modified food, originally drawn up last September by the European Commission, would be enforced not only in shops and permarkets, but in cafés, restaurants, bakeries and delicatessens.

If the announcement had a ring of desperation about it, Mr Rooker cannot be blamed. For weeks the Government has been trying to get a grip on an issue which somehow escaped the focus groups, spindoctors and political advisers with which it likes to surround itself. Public opinion has so far been unimpressed. At the root of consumers' antipathy is the feeling that they are being sold a product they neither sought nor particularly desire. By giving them a choice through labelling, Mr Rooker is now hoping to lance the boil and allow the fever to subside.

The intention here is noble enough. But it may be too late already. Many people are now convinced that GM foods are a threat both to their health and to the environment. It is pointless, even if true, to argue that those lears are eraggerated. For the

limited understanding.
Will the labelling directive succeed in

quelling the hysteria? It faces some serious difficulties. It deals only with foods in which the modified gene or the protein it produces is present in the final food. This is. logical: one cannot enforce labelling regulations if there is no way of proving they have been breached. But it will not satisfy those who object to the process on principle. Allied to this is the question of the threshold below which a food will be deemed not to be GM. Vegetarians would hardly be happy if told that their nut cutlets contained less than I per cent meat, but that is likely to be the deal on offer. Such is the integration of the food chain that it will be very hard to ensure that products containing soya do not include a small fraction of the GM variety.

Further ahead lies the problem of sustaining non-GM sources of soya and maize. Farmers in the US. Canada, and Brazil will not willingly grow a less productive crop without charging a premium price for it. The supermarkets which have declared their own brands GM-free may think again when they find they are

paying more for old-style soya.

The choice that the labelling regulations offer to consumers is therefore something of a fraud. It will be hard to enforce and is unlikely to last indefinitely. The best that can be hoped is that is will take the edge off the panic and provide time for unjustified fears to subside. Even that limited success would be welcome.

ETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

venor Street.

A way out of EU Commission crisis

From Mr John Peek

Sir, It has been widely said that the resignation of the European Commis-sioners and of the President fletters, March 17) provides a welcome opportunity for reform of the Commission in respect of greater transparency, accountability and democratic comrol.

On November 20, 1991, you printed a letter from me in which I suggested that the Commission should surrender its power to initiate legislation to the Council of Ministers and be converted into an institution with functions resembling those of national

civil services.

If this plan were adopted, there would be no need for a new President of the Commission and no need for any commissioners. The Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers would serve as head of the European civil service, channelling the decisions of the Council for action by the ap-propriate directorates. The Council ould be answerable to the European Parliament for its legislative proposals, as is the government of a nation state.

There is much dissatisfaction and confusion over the role of the Commission. Is not now the time to do what has needed to be done long years ago?

Yours faithfully. JOHN PEEK, Les Broches. 07140 Chambonas, Prance.

From Lord Phillips of Sudbury

Sir, The crisis of the Commission of the European Union is neither disaster nor triumph but an inevitable, and inevitably painful, step along its road of evolution.

The danger is that the lessons will be misconstrued by both extremes of political opinion vis-à-vis Europe. Por those like myself, who are fiercely pro-European but no less fiercely antagonistic to any further political union until and unless British public opinion catches up, there are already signs that the underlying reality is being ignored.

Too many of the Euro-elite persist in their belief that Euro-democracy can be advanced simply by new constitutional formats and arrangements and by giving the European Parlia-ment more power. But, if the "ordi-nary" public is not consulted, and their affections not engaged (as hither-to), that arrogance will be counterproductive.

A loveless European Union will not be able to withstand a prolonged, or profound, crisis, which is bound to come. That is why Europe must learn to walk democratically before it tries

Yours truly ANDREW PHILLIPS. As from: Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, EC2V 6BB.

From Mr.D. N. P. Radlett

Sir, John Szemerey (Jetter, March 13) seems to suggest that Britain should cease to exist as a nation state. He calls in aid of this fundamentally misconceived argument the words of Winston Churchill. But Churchill observed in May 1947:

There is the United States with all its dependencies; there is the Soviet Union; there is the British Empire and Commonwealth; and there is Europe, with which Great Britain is profoundly blended. Here are the four main pillars of the World Temple of Peace (Winston Churchill, by Heavy Pelling, Book Club Association 1974).

No indication there that he was committed to the destruction of Britain.

On the wider proposal to create a olitical European federation, Churchill agreed with Anthony Eden, who commented: "This is something which we know in our bones we cannot do" (same source).

William Hague's policy on Europe has the support of an overwhelming majority of Conservative Party mem-

Yours faithfully, D. N. P. RADLETT (Lecturer in Law and European Studies, Mid Kent College, Chatham), 119 Livingstone Road. Gillingham, Kent ME7 2EJ. radlett@easynet.co.uk March 15.

From Lord Hesketh

Sir, If the Government is to have any credibility in demanding reform in Europe, surely it must set an example to our partners by accepting the resignations of our commissioners, as a matter of principle as well as recognising collective responsibility.

Yours faithfully. HESKETH, 33 Cork Street, WIX IHB. March 17.

From Lord Bragg

Sir. Your Diarist (March 18) is misinformed in stating that I am a " 'deep sympathiser with Lord Owen's ... pro-Europe, anti-single currency campaign".

I am no such thing and have no intention whatsoever of becoming an "unfront campaigner", as your Diarist asserted, for Lord Owen's group.

Yours faithfully. MELVYN BRAGG. London Weekend Television. The London Television Centre, Upper Ground, SEI 9LT.

On the trail of the headless man

From Mr Michael Thornton

Sir, Richard Lamb (letter, March 15), whom I have never met, writes that Lord Denning made him promise not to reveal the identity of the headless man - or, more correctly, "The Man without a Head", as he was described in sections 330-333 of Lord Denning's Report - in the Argyll divorce case. He adds that he "cannot believe" that I "was not obliged to give a similar promise". It would have been wiser, and certainly more courteous, if Mr Lamb had sought to verify this wholly groundless speculation with me before electing to publish it.

Lord Denning first telephoned me at Claridge's Hotel in London on September 22, 1987, after reading in a newspaper that I had begun research on my book, Argyll wrans Argyll. In his engaging and lively Hampshire voice, he said (of the headless man): "I want to know how you found out who it was." I replied: "I want to know how you found out who it was."

The result was an invitation to his home at Whitchurch in Hampshire for the first of several meetings, which he allowed me to tape-record. Darting about his study with an agility astonishing in a man of 88, he pulled out file after file containing highly sensi-tive material on which his report was based. Most of this documentation was never published. It revealed that three Conservative ministers had been involved in the Argyll divorce, and that one had felt obliged to offer his resignation from the Cabinet.

Lord Denning showed me the detailed forensic material by which this minister had been cleared of being the man in the photographs, as the late Duke of Argyll mistakenly believed him to be. The minister had been the duchess's lover, and had paid the duke a sum of money in consideration for not being cited in the divorce action - a fact which Denning, in his report, held to be "without foundation", but only be-cause no evidence could be found in 1963 to substantiate it. Both the duke and the duchess subsequently admit-

The Duchess of Argyll herself was the only one of the 160 witnesses inter-

From the Reverend Pilate and crucifixion David H. van Daalen

From the Dean of Merton College, Oxford

behaviour, personally or on television, should agree with Mrs Kathleen Jarvis (letter, March 16). What is incredible about a crowd of misguided demonstrators, with no right to speak for their nation, shouting "His blood be on us and on our children" (Matthew xxvii, 25)? Neither need we doubt that during the previous night, when Jesus was under arrest. St Peter had called down a similar imprecation on himself. The Rock of Christendom, the future first bishop of Rome, "began to curse and to swear, saying "I know not the man" (Matthew xxvi, 74).

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do", was the prayer of the crucified Jesus for those who had encompassed his death. St Paul never for a moment thought that either his fellow Jews or his fellow missionary St Peter would pass down a curse to their innocent successors. God, the compassionate, the merciful, must not be believed to endorse selfcursing or visit such curses on innocent successors.

Historians, and members of the Christian and Jewish faiths, feeling their way towards greater mutual understanding, need not jettison these well witnessed Gospel passages, for all the Gospel writer's fallibility.

Yours faithfully, THOMAS BRAUN (Tutor in Ancient History), Merton College, Oxford OXI 41D. March 16.

Animal experiments

From Mrs Joanne Bower

Sir, Scientists, with the help of genetic engineering, have at last succeeded in creating chicks with four legs (report, March 12, later editions). For years this has been seen as a means of making chickens more profitable - converting wings into legs which are more meaty. The present experiment at Harvard Medical School is said to be opening doors to understanding how vertebrate limbs acquire their identity, but it is sure to be taken up by vested interests scenting increased Ethical questions cannot be ignored

in this type of research. Yours faithfully.

JOANNE BOWER (Honorary Secretary), The Farm and Food Society. 4 Willifield Way, NWII 7XT.

Phantom diner

From Mr Danny Davis

Sir, Of course one would know if one were at dinner with the Chairman of the invisibles fletters, March 16 and 17). His title would be on the name card at the seat that appears to be empty. However, I would not wish to be scated on his right.

Yours faithfully DANNY DAVIS, 30 King Georges Road, Bath BA2 IBJ. customary courtesy, he called on her at her London house, 48 Upper Gros-Among the witnesses who did visit

Denning was the man he suspected of being the headless figure in the photographs. Lord Denning was more than merely an outstanding judge. He had the razor-sharp mind of a great detective and forensic investigator. These qualities enabled him to set an ingenious trap for the witness in question and, with the help of the police, to establish beyond doubt that he was the man in the photographs. Denning was justifiably proud of this sleuthing and imposed no restrictions upon me with regard to it.

viewed by Lord Denning who de-clined to visit him. Instead, with his

Finally, may I correct some misconceptions in your earlier report on this matter (March 8)? The 11th Duke of Argyll did not cite 88 men in the divorce. He cited four, but believed he had grounds against many more than

It is not correct to say that the duchess was "shunned by aristo-cratic society" after her divorce. On the contrary, she continued to visit every embassy in London, and ambassadors and members of the Royal Family, including Prince Michael of Kent, were among her dinner guests. Nor did she express a "wish to be buried at Inveraray Castle". The first clause of her last three wills stated: "I wish my body to be buried in accordance with the rites of the Roman Catholic Church in a cemetery as close as possible to inveraray Castle regardless of its religious denomi-

To the great regret of many friends. some of her executors and immediate heirs seem to have disregarded this clause, even though the Argyll and Bute District Council confirmed in writing that they would have been happy to accept the duchess, a Scot, for burial at Glenshira Cemetery, just outside inveraray, in accordance with her clearly expressed wishes.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL THORNTON. c/o Dinah Wiener Limited. 12 Cornwall Grove, W4 2LB.

Sir, In New Testament times the High Priest, though he was supposed to be the spiritual leader of the Jews, was pointed by the Romans; and if he did not toe the line he could be replaced by someone more willing to co-

operate. So the tussle between Pilate and Caiaphas was not about whether Jesus was to be crucified, for it was not expedient for them to disagree on policy, but about who was to carry the can if awkward questions were to be asked in Rome about this judicial murder. No questions were asked in Rome, but later judgments on the two men have shown that Pilate was the more successful. It seems that the Barabbas incident helped him considerably in this.

Yours faithfully, D. H. van DAALEN, Shalom, 10 Sandwich Road, St Neots, Huntingdon PEI9 !TY.

From M. Maurice André

Sir, If Mr David H. Lewis (letter, March 13) really wants to be reas-sured as to the historicity of Jesus he may turn to the uncensored Talmud published in Israel (eg, the treatise Sanhedrin 43a), or even to the current version of Sota 47a, where it is written: "He practised witchcraft, seduced Israel and led her astray and to transgression", or again, to the collected Toledoth Yeshuh.

Yours faithfully, M. ANDRE, 37 Avenue de la République, F-92120 Montrouge, France. March 15.

Gainsborough portrait

From the Director of the Salisbury

and South Wiltshire Museum Sir. Museums throughout the land will share Elisabeth Bartlett's concern

(letter, March 12) that Marlborough College's plan to sell its Gainsborough portrait may discourage donations to deserving institutions. Donors, however, may rest assured

that most museums, certainly those within the Museums & Galleries Commission's registration scheme. numbering some 1.700, abide by codes of practice, which declare "a strong presumption against the disposal of anything from a museum collection"; where a disposal does occur, museums agree to offer the object to another registered museum, thereby guaranteeing its retention within the public domain.

Other institutions would do well to follow this example if they are to retain the confidence of donors.

Yours faithfully. PETER SAUNDERS, Director. Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, The King's House, 65 The Close, Salisbury, Wiltshire SPI 2EN. March 12

Business letters, page 31

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Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. c-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

First-class trip for 'working-class lad'

From the National Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union and others

Sir, Some British newspapers including your own have sneered at the Deputy Prime Minister's recent visit to India (report, March 16). This was in stark contrast to reporting in India, where The Times of India said the visit marked a "thaw" in relations

between our two nations. We were members of the trade delegation that accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister to promote environmental technology. In a demanding schedule of high-level government and trade meetings, our discussions proved particularly fruitful. We met eight government ministers, key civil servants, as well as business and community leaders in New Delhi and

Mumbai (Bombay, as was). We joined Mr Prescott at a meeting with the CII — the Indian equivalent of the CBI. We feel that real progress has been made towards helping India tackle environmental problems, and at the same time improving and developing trade links between India and British industry.

This was a very successful visit which has helped to promote the transfer of technology and strengthen the important links between our two

JIM MOWATT, National Secretary, TGWU, KEITH CLARKE, TONY ECKFORD. Managing Director, Anglian Water, DAVID JEFFERY, Chief Executive, · Port of London Authority, STEVEN MARSHALL General Manager, Business Development, The National Grid Company, TGWU,

March 17.

From Mr Daljit Sehbai

Sir, Your report today on John Prescon's "high-level" trip to India is tendentious in tone and totally unjustified and unreasonable in content. What is wrong with the Deputy Prime Minister of this great and pros-

16 Palace Street, Victoria SWIE 5JD.

perous country travelling first-class? Why should John Prescott have refused the offer of his hosts, the dian Government, to fly Agra for his visit to Taj Mahal, a great historical monument in serious danger owing to environmental pollution?

Mr Prescott, according to your own account, had booked himself into a £173-per-night hotel room like the rest of the official party. He was upgraded to the Presidential suite by the hotel management, who felt honoured to have Britain's Deputy Prime Minister as their guest. It did not cost the British taxpayer a penny more.

Yours faithfully. DALJIT SEHBAI, Reform Club. 104 Pall Mall, SWIY 5EW. March 16.

From Mr George Stern

Sir. Speaking from one of his trips using Rolls-Royces, first-class air travel and £1.000+ per day hotel accommodation, John Prescott tells us that he is only a "working-class lad". He is also the minister responsible for public transport in London which is used by people just as working-class as Mr Prescott. These are forced to use perhaps the filthiest and most unreliable bus and Tube system of any Western European capital, and with fares among the highest in the

Mr Prescott should try the transport that the rest of us have to use. Then, maybe, he would see a case for upgrading us.

Yours faithfully, GEORGE STERN, 6 Eton Court, 6 Shepherds Hill, N6 5AF. March 16.

Tango revival

From Professor Eric Moonman Sir, Ruth Gledhill described the re-

birth of the tango in a number of countries (report, March 11). However, the single most important event is not in Buenos Aires or Paris, but in Finland. Each year a world festival and competitions take place in Seinajoki during July. Tens of thousands come to dance and to elect their champions. On my last visit in 1998 there was an enormous increase in the number of Brits, but they all complained that there was a shortage

Yours sincerely ERIC MOONMAN, 1 Beacon Hill, N7 9LY.

of tango teachers here.

Sign of spring

From Mr H. Sutherland Pilch

Sir, I was walking down King William Street in the City yesterday and I saw a bare navel for the first time this year. Surely these days this is a better harbinger of spring than the cuckoo?

Yours faithfully, H. SUTHERLAND PILCH. Spring Cottage, Gay Street Lane, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 2HN.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 18: His Excellency Mr Khemaies Jhinaoui was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador of Tunisia to the Court of St

His Excellency was accompa-nied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr Habih Miled (Counsellor), Mr Khaled El Fendri (Counsellor), Mr Kais Darraji (Counsellor), Mr Hosni Hamada (Artaché). Mr Tahar Kricha (Attaché). Mr Rachid Trabelsi (At-taché) and Mr Ali Jomni (Attaché). Sir John Kerr (Permanent Un-der Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was

present. Mrs Sihem Jhinaoui was also received by The Queen, The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Green Jackets, received Lieutenant General Sir Christopher Wallace upon relinquishing his appointment as Colonel Commandant of The 2nd Battalion and Major General Andrew Pringle

upon assuming the appointment.

The Honourable Mr Justice Burton was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and Invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The Lady Hunt was received by The Oueen today and delivered up the Insignia of the Order of the Garter worn by her husband, the late Lord Hunt.

By command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weather-all (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Vassilis S. Zafiropoulos, 51 Upper Brook Street, London Wt. this morning in order to bld farewell to His Excellency upon relinguishing his appointment as Ambassador of Greece to the Court of St James's.

The Queen was represented by Lieutenant General Sir Richard Swinburn at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of The Duke of Rutland which was held in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London, today, The Princess Margaret. Coun-

Royal engagement

The Queen will present a new Sovereign's Banner to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst at Buckingham Palace at 11.45.

The Bristol Society
The Lord Mayor of Bristol, the Bishop of Bristol, the Vice-Chancel-lor of the University of the West of England and the Dean of Bristol were present at a lecture given for the Society by Mr Roger Laughton, Chief Executive Officer of United Broadcasting & Entertainment, at the University of the West of Mr St John Hartnell, Chairman of the Society, presided and Mr Louis Sherwood, Chairman HTV West, gave a vote of thanks. HTV West were the hosts at a supper held afterwards.

Duchy of Cornwall Mr Robin Broadhurst has been

tess of Snowdon was represented by Lady Penn. Princess Alice, Duchess of

Gloucester and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Lieutenant Colonel Sit Simon Bland.
Prince Michael of Kent was

represented by the Lord Car-Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Oxilvy was represented by Colonel Shaun Longsdon. BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 18: The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature -WWF International today carried out Field Visits in South East Cameroon.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 18: The Prince of Wales, President, The Phoenix Trust, this morning chaired the Trust's Board His Royal Highness, President

The Prince's Trust, and Patron, The British Institute of Florence, this evening attended the film premiere Tea with Mussolini at the Empire, Leicester Square,

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 18: The Princess Royal, Colonel in Chief, today visited the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals and Royal New Zealand Nursing Corps at Linton Military

Her Royal Highness this after-noon left New Zealand for London. ST JAMES'S PALACE March 18: The Duke of Kent this morning visited Merseyside and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside (Mr Alan W. Waterworth, JP).

His Royal Highness then visited

Cammell Laird Shipyard, Camp-beltown Road, Birkenhead. The Duke of Kent roday officially opened The Laird Foundation, Birkenhead.

His Royal Highness this after-noon visited Birkenhead Priory. Priory Street, Birkenhead.
The Duke of Kent then visited R S Clare & Co Ltd, 8-14 Stanhope

Street, Liverpool, His Royal Highness then officially opened the Borner Building of Contract Chemicals Ltd. Penrhyn Road. Knowsley Business Park, Prescot, Merscyside.

Birthdays today

Lecture

Prince's Council of the duchy.

Mr Duncan Bluck, former chairman, British Tourist Authority, 72: Sir Nigel Broomfield, former diplomat, 80: Miss Glenn Close, acress, 52: Lady Georgina Coleridge, 83: Dr J.D. Davles, former Director, Polytechnic of Wales, 70: Professor Ronald Girdwood, former President, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 82: the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, former Bishop of Portsmouth, 72: Sir Ernest Hall, planist, composer and property Portsmouth, 72: Sir Ernest Hall, planist, composer and property developer, 69: Professor Sir Peter Hall, FBA. planner. 67: Viscount Hill, 68: Vice-Admiral Sir Norman King, 66: Sir David Lumsden, former Principal, Royal Academy of Music, 71: Mr Patrick Moof Music, 71: Mr Fatrick Mc-Cochan, actor, 71: Sir Peter Mase-field, aviation expert, 85; the Earl of Morton, 72: Mr David Nichol-son, racehorse trainer, 60: Lord Plant of Highfield, 54: Lleutenant-General Sir Alan Reay, 74: Mr Philip Roth, author, bot Mr Percival G. Sutton, former chairman, the Press Club, 83; Mr Duncan Weld-

on, theatre producer, 58; Mr Bruce Willis, actor, 44; Mr William Winfield, Headmaster, Mill Hill

Service dinners

Mr Paul Carling.

HMS Colli Rear-Admiral John Trewby, Chief Executive Naval Bases and Supply/ Chief Naval Engineer Officer, was the guest of honour at a dinner held last night on board HMS Collingwood.

College. - Recalegue Technology Scholar-

The Anchorites Surgeon Rear-Admiral Frank Golden was the principal guest at a dinner of the Anchorites held last night on board HQS Wellington.

School news ship: O.M. Sprague, Dulwich College, II+

Kate Russell, creator and co-ordinator of the Leeds Millennium Tapestry, with a selection of the tapestry's panels which were on show yesterday at Harewood House. When completed, the 84ft x 8ft tapestry will be larger than the Bayeux Tapestry and will cover the whole range of life in Leeds. It will have cost more than £300,000, and will have taken tens of thousands of hours' work and millions of stitches.

The Assam Valley School, India The Governors of The Assam Valley School, India, announce the appointment of Mr Leslie Fox, IlBaisbridge Scholarshiper D.J. Dizmond.
Dulwich College, M.C. Marshell, Ehrsburst
Preparatory School: R.T. Williams, Resemend Preparatory School: A.T. Williams, Resemend Preparatory School.
D.C. Baner School, Wimbledoo; R.E.M.
Sandery Heweit, Belleville Primary School;
D.L.J. Thomas, Rasemend Preparatory
School: A.W.R. Virga, Dulwich College:
J.M. Wisson, Dulwich College.
J.M. Wisson, Dulwich College. Second Master of Yarm School, as Headmaster from July 1999, to succeed the founding Headmaster. Dulwich College Dulwich College announces the following awards:

J.M. Wissun. Drawich Chilege.
Learning Wilson Memorial Scholarships:
C.M.G. Baugh, Highfield School: S.I.
Clarke, St Davidy College L.R. Curler, The
Roche School: M.W. Engel. St David's
College: M.J. Harris, Einsbarn Preparatory
School: R.M. Mulloy, Homelman Privary
School: C.W.E. Stark, St Michael's C of B
School: S. Tavares. Emburys Preparatory following awards:

3
C.D. Broad Scholarships D.M.L. Leonard,
Bickley Park School; C.W. Tunstall, Delwich College Preparatory School.

Harnid Penney Scholarships E.H.R. Morgan,
Dulwich College Preparatory School.

Harniey Shawcross Scholarships: W.A.

Roper, Dulwich College Preparatory School:

S.P.H. Rose, Dulwich College Preparatory
School; J.R.D. Rowe, Dulwich College
Preparatory School. L.M. Sorget, Dulwich
College Preparatory School,
Dr H.M., Fisher Scholarship: J.R. Mead,
Bickley Park School.

Alleya Cheb Scholarship: S.R. Levy, Dulwich College Preparatory School,
Massic Scholarship and Homarray C.D.

Broad Scholarship: B.C.G. Paullorer, Dulwich College Preparatory School.

Massic Scholarship and Homarray C.D.

Broad Scholarship: A.P.J. Harnid, Dulwich College Preparatory School,
Massic Scholarships A.P.J. Harnid, Dulwich College Preparatory
School,
Art Schodarships B.C.G. Paratice, Dulwich College Preparatory
School,
Art Schodarships R.R. Braucie, Dulwich

ter School, wate, Boutcher C Let Schoolwalths J.F. Devidson, Dulwich lamiet lumint School, lusie Schoolwalties 9

Royal Artillery The Royal Artillery spring dinner was held last night at the Royt Artillery Mess, Wootwich, Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill, Master Gunner, St James's Park. presided. Among those present WELE:

Vercount Ridley, R.G., and Viscounters Ridley, General Str John and Lady Stibbon, Brigadier-General J Schmeider, Major-Gen-eral and Mrs J A. J P. Barr, Major-General Leo J Butter, Major-General and Mrs R. H. G. Rilhon, the Mayor and Mayoress Bur-fregenwich, Mr. and Mrs Charles Bur-ington and Mrs and Mrs Charles Walze-feld. riverion field.

Dinners

Lord Mayor of London The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave a dinner last night at the Mansion House in honour of the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of City Livery Compa-nies and their escorts, the Sheriffs, Members of the Court of Aldermen and the Court of Common Council and Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts. The Lord Mayor, the Master of the Mercers' Company and the Master of the Grocers' Company were the speakers. Among others present were: The Bishop of Rochester and Mrs Nazin-Ali. Sir Peter Studd, Mrs Michael Butl, Sir Murray Fox, Miss Christine Fox, Sir Amhuny and Ludy Idilitie and the Manur and Mistress Carler in Hallemstore.

Old Mancunians Association The Chinese Ambassador was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Old Mancunians Association, London section, held last night at Dartmouth House. Mr K.M. Robbie presided.

Association of London Clobs Viscount Thurso was the guest of bonour at the annual dinner of the Association of London Clubs held last night at the National Liberal Club. Mr Graham Snell, chairmen of the association, presided. Lord Bramall, KG, the Hon Maurice Robson, Sir Richard Brooke, Sir Geoffrey Ellerson, Commodore Ian Pemberton and Air Vice-Marshal Keith Filbey

were among those present. The Highland Society of London The President of The Highland Society of London. Mr Malcohn Innes, presided at the annual dinner held at the Caledonian Club on March 17. Admiral Str Jock Slater proposed the toast to the Immortal Memory of General Sir Ralph Abertrombie and all

Sontamen who have died in defence of their country. Chester Business-Club

Mr John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC. was the guest of humour and principal speaker at a dinner of the Chester Business Club held last night at the Abbots Well Hotel, Chester. Mr Martin Seed chairman, presided Mr. Seed, chairman, presided. Mr Tum Hunt, vice-president, and Mr Bob Clough-Parker, secretary, also Spoke.

Durham University Durham University
Sir Robert May., Chief Scientific
Adviser to Her Majesty's Government, was the guest speaker at the
annual dinner of Durham University Society of Fellows held last
right at the College of St Hild and
St Bede, Durham. Professor
Michael Prestwich, president of
the society, was the lost. The the society, was the host. The Mayor and Mayoress of Durham attended. The Vice-Chancellor and Warden of Durham University, the Dean of Durham and the Chairman of Northumbrian Water were among the guests.

Public Management and Policy Mr Jack Cunningham, Minister for the Cabinet Office, and Professor Robert Worcester, Chairman of MORI, were the speakers at a lecture organised by the Public Management and Policy Associa-

tion and sponsored by the Char-tered Institute of Public Finance and Accumiancy held on Wednes-day evening at 1 Great George Street, London SWL Mr Peter Kellner presided.

University news Oxford The Eldon Law Scholarship for 1999 has been awarded to Colin Thomann, Mansfield College.

Forthcoming marriages

The Duke of Rutland The Queen was represented by Licutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn at a memorial service for the Duke of Rutland held yesterday in the Guards Chapel. Wellington Barracks.

Memorial

service

ASADOLIR GLIZELIA

Princess Margaret was represented by Lady Penn, Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gioucester by Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, Prince Michael of Kent by Lord Carrington, KG, CH, and Princess Alexandra by Colonel

Shaun Longsdon The Rev Leslie Bryan, Chaplain to the Household Division, officiated, assisted by the Rev E.R. Urquhart, Vicar of Bakewell, Derbyshire, Canon A. Clayton, Chap-lain of Relyoir, and the Very Rev Derek N. Hole, Provost of Leices-

Lord Edward Manners, son, read the lessum and the Duke of Rutland, son, read I Said to the Rutland, son, read I Saul to the Man at the Gate of the Year by Minnie Louise Haskins. Lord Charteris of Amisfield gave an address. Lieutenant-Colonel C.J.E. Seymour, Regimental Adjutant, represented the Grenadier Guards. Among others present

Prances Duchess of Rutisand (wisdow). Lady Charlosse Manners (daughaer). Dr. John and Lady Teresa Chipmans (son-law and daughaer), the Duchess of Rutisand (daughaer). Level John Manners (Brother and sister-in-law), Lady Urnula Dr. Abo and Lady Roger Manners (Brother and sister-in-law), Lady Urnula Dr. Abo and Lady Isobel Throckmortan (sisters). Mr and Mrs Henry Dr. Abo, the Marchianess of Duffeirs and Aw, Mr William Gutness, Miss Phoche Manners, Mr and Mrs Peveral Manners, his Lucy Manners, the Hen John and Mrs Ramssy, Mr and Mrs Brian Steeny.

The Dulre of Wellington, Anne Dochess of Rutisand, the Duchess of Marlinovough. Elizabeth Duchess of Nordnumbers and the Marchlomess of Chimandeley, the Marquess of Salisbury, the Countess of Caledon, the Countess of Darumouth, the Earl and Countess of Gainstonough, the Earl and Countess of Wilson, Viscountess Matanillan of Owenden, Lady Michael Ceril.

Lady King of Warmonby, Baroness Revisign, the Ashcombe, Lady Swaything, Brigadier Lord and Lady Wilson, Anne Lody Eliza, Lord and Lady Krifting of Warmonby, Baroness Revisign, the Downier Lady Swaything, Brigadier Lord and Lady Wilson, Anne Loy Eliza, Lord and Lady Swaything, Brigadier Lord Marghial, the Hon Mir Sharples, the Hon Mir Warmon Bright of Channess Revisign, Mrs. All Mir Baroness Thasther, Li G. OM, FRS. Sr. Marryon Dominier Eliza, the Hon During Elizabeth Mrs. Mir Baroness Thasther, Li G. OM, FRS. Sr. Marryon Berker, Sr. Toloy Clarke, Lady Chiquinoun of Loss, Sr. Restrys Silvell, Sr. Bereisty Silvell, Sr. Bereisty Silvell, Sr. Bereisty Silvell, Mrs. B

The College of Law The Governors of The College of Law have appointed Mr Rodger-Pannone to be their Chairman in

Legal appointments Mr Roger Venne has been appointed the first Head of the Civil Appeals Office to support the Court of Appeal (Civil Division) in the Royal Courts of Justice. Mr John Adams, former Registrar of Civil Appeals, has been promot-ed to the Circuit Bench and is now

based at Barnet.

TRADE; 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

Mr P.F. Burton and Miss D.L. Spearing The engagement is announced between Piers Fitzgerald, second son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Burton, of Woeful Lake House, Sherborne, Gloucestershire, and Debbie Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Victor Spearing, of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Mr S.G. Dobbie

and Miss H.A.McK. Cox The engagement is announced between Siewart Geoffrey, younger son of Mr and Mrs Graham Dobbie, of Hartree, Pechlesshire. and Helen Ann McKay, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Cox, of Duddington, Northamptonshire. Wing Commander M.V. Godfrey and Ms R.A. Radford

The engagement is announced between Malcolm Victor, son of herween Malcomi First, son to Mr Desmond Godfrey and the late Mrs Godfrey, of Long Bennington, Notinghamshire, and Rosemary Ann, youngest daughter of Alderman Major James and Mrs Buckee, of Kingswood, Bristol.

Mr J. Gore-Booth and Miss A.M. McConnell The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Sir David Gore-Booth, of London, and Mrs filli Forescue, née Valpy, of Majorca, and Amanda, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter McConnell, of Jamaica.

Or L.E. James and Dr K.M.H. Moore The engagement is announced between Laurence, elder son of Mr and Mrs Roger James, of London, and Katherine, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Moore, of Grindleford, Derbyshire.

Mr J.L. Lawson and Miss M.R. Young
The engagement is announced
between Justin, elder son of Mr
and Mrs John Lawson, of Hurley Bertshire, and Melanie, elde daughter of Mr and Mrs David Young, of Ashdon, near Saffron Walden, Essex.

Mr R. Raynor and Miss C. Heighway The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs William Raynor, of Chester, and Claire, second daughter of Mrs Anne-Marie Heighway, of Bray, and Mr John Heighway, of

Mr B.R. Wyldbore-Smith and Miss P.S.M. Scott The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Major-General Sir Brian and the Hon Lady Wyldhore-Smith, of Grantham, Lincolnshire, and Philippa, daughter of the late Mr Peter J.M. Scott and of Mrs Scott, of Roydon, Essex.

Mr M.E. Young and Miss C.J.S. Scopes The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tony Young of Kingswindford, West Midlands, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Herman Scopes, of Wargrave,

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: David Livingstone, explorer, Low Biantyre, Lanarkshire, 1813: Sir Richard Burton, explorer and scholar, Torquey, 1821; Sergei Diagbilev, impresario, Novgorod, Russia, 1872; Sir John Marshall, archaeologist, Chester, 1876. DEATHS: Arthur James Balfour. lst Earl of Balfour, Prime Minister 1902/05, Woking, Surrey, 1930; Edgar Rice Burroughs, novelist, Encino, California, 1950. According to Ptolemy, the Babylonians observed the first recorded eclipse, 721BC.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

God did not call us to live in immorality, but in ho-liness. 1 Thessalonians 4.7 (GNB).

BIRTHS

SERGER - On the Ides of March 1999, to Dominic and Jane, a beautiful son, Schatting Gabriel Sea, a Sebastian Gabriel Sea, a brother for Kieron-Blue. brother for Kieron-Bine. BRODERICK - On 14th March 1999, to Joanne (nde Mart) and Sandy, a beautiful son, Hamish William Masson, 9lbs loz, A brother and playmate for Figan.

CHANCELLOR - On 11th March 1999 in Sydney, Australia, to Camilla (née Morgan) and Andrew, a daughter, Poppy Esma. COSTELETOS - On March Hospital, to Katerina (née Flenga) and Philippe. a daughter, Marianna.

DORRELL - On March 11th to Annette and Stephen, a son, Christopher George Robert, a brother for Alexandra, Philip and HALLIWEL - On 4th March

HOWARD - On Friday March 12th 1999 to Helen (a6e Garliek) and Richard, a daughter, Lillian Hope, a sister for Unity and William.

LAWRERCE - On Morth 4th 1999, to Kathryn (née Chessun) and Mark, a son. Thomas Henry William, a brother for Eleanor and

LENTON - On March 13th at

The Portland Hospital, to Paula and James, a daughter, Chloe Rose, a sister for Kezia Angel. LONGDEN - On March 90s, to Joanna (née Soymour) and Mark, a daughter, Lara, a sister for Tatiana and Johnny.

MASTERTON - On 17th March, in Winchester, to Caroline (née Mayfield) and James, a son, a brother for Eliza and Sophie. PANDERI - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Sojata and Samir, a son. Shaan, a brother for Shame and Solvani. BIRTHS

REDDEX - Glenn and Jane are pleased to announce the birth of their son Ethan Robert on 13th March 1999, 61bs 5oz.

TREW - On Wodnesday March 3rd 1999 at Faraborough Hospital. Kent, to Juliet (a6e Thompson) and David, beautiful twin daughter Isobel Anna and Eleano

WATSON - On March 16th 1999, at home, to Annabel (née Scott) and Oliver, a daughter, Isabella Amelia Rosa.

WHITE - On March 18th in Brisbane, Australia to Lucinda (née Dobbin) and Paul, a son, Charles William WHITESIDE - On March 15th, to Amanda (née Johnson)

and Murray, a daughter. Zara Emily, as No. 1.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ROTHSCHLD - On 18th March, to Sarah (née Pelcener) and Christophe a daughter, Leah Natasha

SEAMAN - On Tuesday March 16th 1999 to Annabel (née Price) and Julian, a son, Wilfrid William.

SILCOCK - On March 10th 1999 at Cheltenham Hospital to Emma trée Williams) and Paul, a daughter, Rachel.

YOUNG - Leslis Terence. The family of the late Terry Young who fell asleep suddenly 27th February 1999 would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kindness, sympathy, floral tributes and cards sent to us at our sed and sudden loss of a dear husband, ded and grandad. Special thanks to our families. Maureen Young and family.

DEATHS

EVERIDGE - On 17th March 1999 the Reverend Wilbert Ealer (Bill) MA M.Litz. Loving huband of Ena, caring father of Martin, lan and Joan and grandfather of Alistair. Funeral Service at St James' Poksedown, Bournemouth on Tuesda 22nd March at 11 Sept.

Bournemouth on Tuesday 23rd March at 11.15 am, followed by cremation at Pools. No flowers, but donations if desired to the Childrens Society c/o George Scott, Fumeral Directors, 13-15 Somerset Road, Bournemouth, BHY 8JH. Tel: 01202 395827.

BISHOP - Suddenly at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, on 12th March 1999, Rsymond Charles Bishop A.C.P. aged 81. Much loved histband, father and grandfather. Private funeral has taken places

CAMPBELL - Dr. Margaret
Olivia Noel Campbell,
Hatorian and one of the
founding staff of
Gordonatoun School, Died
peacefully 15th March
1898 Edinburgh, Beloved
wife of the late Keir A.
Campbell DSO and
mother of Diarmid,
Faileity, Oran and Mary,
beloved aunt of Hugh,
Robin and David
Campbell Byatt, Funeral
at St John's Cathedral,
Oban, 1 pm Saturday 20th
March, Memorial Service
in Edinburgh to be
announced later. Pamily
flowers only.

CRAWFORTH - Felicity Ann inée Chittenden) peacefully at home on 17th March. Beloved wife of Bill and mother of David and Emma. Funeral Service at St. Mary's. Guildford on Wednesday 24th March at 2.30 pm. No flowers but donations may be made to imperial Cancer Research Fund.

GODDARD - Gurcion. On 12th
March suddenly at the
home of his draughter.
Beloved husband of
Brenda, adored father of
Beverley and Roger,
Isther-in-law of Issper
and Melanie and nuch
loved Grandpa of Marcus,
Rachel, Christopher,
Oliver and Lucy. Finneral
Service at Basingstokes
Crematorium on 24th
March at 12 noon. Family
flowers only, donations if
wished to British Heart
Foundation c/o Juo Steel
& Son, 5 Cheell Street,
Winchester.

GULDER - Arthur Raginald (George), born 1921, peacefully at home on March 16th Funeral service 3.00pm, Tuesday 23rd March at Mortlake Cramatorium, Family flowers or donations to preferred charity to T.H. Sanders and Sons, 28-30 Kaw Road, Richmoud, Surrey, 0181, 948, 1551.

GRIFFITHS - On 17th March 1999, peacefully at Worthing, Beryl Ivene, aged 101. Widow of Air Commodore I Swire Griffiths and beloved mother of Pauline and Shells. Funeral service at All Seints Church, Findou Valley on Thursday 25th March at 145pm followed by committel at Worthing. by committel at Worthin Crematorium at 2,40pm. Cremeterium at 2.40pm.
No flowers please but, if
desired, donations to The
Chastnut Tree House
(Worthing Childrens
Hospics Project) may be
sent c/o H.D. Tribe Ltd.
130 Broadwater Road,
Worthing, 01903 234518.

GRIFFITHS - Annie GREFITHS - Annie
Davidson, on Tuesday 18th
March 1999 aged 78 years.
Mother of Linds Harrison
and grandmother of
Edward Funeral Service
in Landbeach Baptist
Church on Monday 28th
March at 11 am followed
by private cremation.
Denations to "Arthur Rank
House" c/o Harry Williams
& Sons, 7 Victoria Park,
Cambridge.

HARPER - Brigadier John
James Harper, MBE, MA,
JP, DL, on 18th March
1999, aged 91. Beloved
husband of Bobble, dearly
loved father of Sossa and
William and much loved
grandfather. Former
Headmaster of Thfin
School, 1947-1972. Sarvice
at 5t Barnabas Church,
Rammore at 3.30pm on
Thursday 25th March after
a private cremation. There
will be a Memorial Sarvice
at Kingston Parish Church
on a date to be amnounced.
Family Howers colly, but
donations, if dealred for
Imperial Cancer Research
Fund may be sent to
Sherlock and Sons, Trellis
House, Docking, EH4 ZES,

NEDLEY - Peacefully on March 17th 1999 Katharine Mary of Barham after an Illness borne with great courage, Beloved wits of the late Tun Hedley, much loved mother of Charlotte (Loyd), Simon and Mark. Also a greatly loved grandmother. grandmother. Thankagiving Service at Barbara Church on Berham Church on Monday March 22nd at 12 moon, preceded by a private family service at Lympase Churchyard. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to RUEBA via C.W. Lyons, 70 Military Read

?0 Military Road, Canterbury CTI 1ND. HERON - Edward (Ned)
peacefully on 13th March
1933 aged 86. Funeral at St
Bartholomews, Hyds,
Winchester at 2pm on
Thursday 25th March,
Family Howers only.
Donations if desired to
Breadoncare c/o Steel &
Sons, 6 Chesil Street,
Winchester SO23 OHU.

HOOGSON - Betty Alice peacefully in Torbay Hospital on 13th March 1993 aged 77 years. Funeral Service 2 Lippo Friday March 26th at Oxford Crematorium. Flowers to Surmen and Horwood Funeral Service tel 01844 351323.

duaptikey - John Scott died on 9th March. The funeral has taken place in France. A service in his managy will be at Frinner free Church, Counsught. Avenue, Frinton-on-Sen, Essex on Thursday 29th March at 11 am. Donntlon, if dustred to if desired to

LLOYD - On 17th March, peacefully at University College Hospital, Rachel Dilya, wife of the late David Harbert Lloyd and mother of Lloyd and Huw. Service at the West Chapel, Colders Green Crematerium, 2.00pm Wednesday 24th March. Friends and neighbours welcome. Flowers or donations to be sent to Leverton and Som, 212 Evershoit Street, London NW1. Donations to be made out to The University College Hospital Special Trustees.

MARTIE - Gwen died 18th March 1959 at Robinson House Bristol, aged 52, widow of Philip Muntis CMG, much loved mother to Pat Curtis and John Mantle, grandmether and great-grandmother. Funeral arrangements,

Long time Chairman o U.K. and in his

MARSTON - Anthony David.
On 18th March in France suddenly whilet aki-ing with his family and friends. Cherished husband of Anne, beloved father of Caroline, James and Lovy and adored grandfather of Joshus, Barnabas and Eletnor.
Lovy time Chalman of U.K. and in his Presidential year of Hythe Rotary Clinb. Funeral arrangements to be advised - please phone 01303 262762. Family flowers only but donations if desired to the Ectary Club of Hythe for its nominated charities of Anne Marston, Marston Hotels, The Marst, Hythe, Kent C121 6AQ.

METCALFE - David Bruce, studdenly at home on 17th March 1999 aged 77.
Dearly loved by Felicity and by Jerumy, Jonathan, Pippa, Simon, Toby and all his hmilly. He was so proud of his eight grandchildren. A loving brether of Pensiope Hale. Served with The Glorocestarshire Regt and The Curps of Queens's Messangers. Family funeral on Seturday 20th March followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church, Minchinhampton, Glos on Thursday 15th April at 1,00pm. Enquiries to Philip Ford & Son., Funeral Directors 01453 783592.

Marston Hotels, recent Chairman of Seet Western

Mantie, grandmomer and great-greadmother. Funeral arrangements, cremation at South Bristol on Wednesday March 14th at 11.30m. Flowers to Cooperative Funeral Service, 513 Wells Road, Hengrova.

MEDULETON - Sir Lawrence Mosck, 10th Bt., 16th March 1999 pescufully at boths. Enquiries c/o Forsey and Son (01458) 272297.

MILLER SWITH - Dorothy died peacefully at home, as abe lived, with her family. Wile of Charles, mother of Nicholas, Caroline and Flona, and grandmother of Emily. Funeral carvice at St Michael's, Chester Square, Swith on Friday 28th March 1999 at 2.30 pm for family and close triands. Family Howers only but donations, if desired, to Action against Breast Cancer, CZ Culham Science Cantre, Oxfordshire OX14 30B.
Thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving service on Tuesday 11th May 1999 at St Michaelt, Chester Scurre, 5WL at 11.30 am. All friends invited.

PADER - Valerie Justine on 16th March 1999, suddenly leth March 1999, suddenly and tragically at her home in Peal, it's of Man, aged 34. Formserly of Prestwich, Manchester, Midwife at Nobles Hospital, Douglas, Formerly with Royal Bank of Scotland, Itlington. Precious daughter of Ichn and Linda, and sister of Elisabeth, Port St Mary, Isle of Man. Requiem mess being arranged: Enquiries baing arranged Enquiries 01624 513114

ROBINSON - Dr. John
Sherborne, husband of
Melinda, father of David
and Cheries, clied aged 64
on March 16th after a
short illness. Funeral
Service at St. Mary's
Church, Kamaing, Kant on
Wednesday 24th March,
Family Rowers only
pieses, donations to the
Royal London Society for
the Blind or charity of
choice. All enquiries to W.
Hodges, 39 St. Johns Hill,
Seremosks, tel: [01732]

Scott-Fulwell,
Sunderland, Peacefully in
hospital after a long
illness, borne bewaly on
March 18th, agod 75 years,
Frank, Member of FOS 256
Mess. Very dear and
beloved husband of Hanel
very much loved father of
Marilyn, Easth and
Michelle, dearest fatherin-law of Andy and Betty,
loving Grandpa of
Cameron, Francesca,
Austen and Alister,
dearest brother of Joan,
Marina and the late loyce,
also a dear brother-in-law,
Would friends please meet
for Service at Sunderland
Granatorium on Tuenday
March 23rd at 1,00pm.
Family flowers only
please. Donations if
desired to Cancer
Research, c/o The
Manager, Lloyds Bank,
Sea Road, Fulwell,
Sunderland, Enquiries to
CW Tait Puneral
Directors, 48 Roker
Avenue, 7et 0191 510 2844
Frank will be very sadly
missed by all.

SLOMAN - William Owen
M.R.E. of Cottenham
passed away peacefully on
Mondey March 18th 1999
aged 71 years. Funeral
Service at Cambridge City
Crematorium West Chapel
on Thursday March 25th
1999 at 130 pm. Family
flowers only. Donations if
desired to R.N.L.I. on the
day or c/o Willingham day or c/o Willingham Faneral Service, Berrycroft, Willingham, Camba, CE4 SIX.

ANGSTER - Richard "Hugh" SANGSTER - Richard "Hugh"
Bethune Sangster, of
Calgary, Alberta, Canada,
passed away in his aleep
after a great shi trip with
old friends on March 8th,
1999. Dearly beloved
humband and best friend of
Hazel; loving and much
loved father of Claire,
Anna and Malcolin;
practicus son of Robert and
Una Sangster of
Edinburgh, Scotland, sonlin-law of the late Alastair
und Putal Brown of
Stirling, Scotland, Born in
Scotland on March 28th,
1946, brought up in
Scotland and East Africa,
Hogh was educated at

1945, brought up in
Scotland and East Africa,
Hugh was educated at
Merchiston Castle School
and Edinburgh University
graduating with an Honore
Degree in Civil
Engineering. He emigrated
to Canada in 1970,
pursuing a career in the
Canadian energy field. At
the time of his death, he
was President of Embridge
International Inc. and
Enbridge Technology Inc.
Caring Iriend to so many,
old and young, across the
world, considerate
volinears, and above all,
wonderful father and
husband. He will be
desperately missed. A

wonderful father and husband. He will be desperately missed. A Memorial Service to Calebrate Hugh's Life will be held at Riverview United Church (824 imperial Way S.W.) on Friday, March 12th, 1999 at 2.00 pm. with the Rev. Rita M. Cattell officiating. If friends so desire, memorial tributer can be made directly to the Hospice Calgary Foundation, #300, 628-12 Avenue S.W. Calgary, AB T2R GHG, and/or the Calgary Opera Association, #601, 237-8 Avenue S.E., Calgary, AB T2G 5C3 (on whose boards Hugh worked directly) and/or the Heart and Streks Foundation of Alberts, 1825 Park Road S.E., Calgary, AB T2G 576. In living memory of Hugh Sangster, a true will be planted at Fish Creek Provincial Park by McInnis & Holloway Funeral Homes, "Park Memorial Chapel", 5008 Elbow Drive S.W., Calgary, Telephone: (403) 242-8200.

4

March, suddenly at home in Holland, after a long illness so bravely borne, Michael John Tunniciffe, aged 59, much loved husband of Rosemary and father of James and Kate. Funeral Mass at St Helen's Church, Westeliff on Sen at 9 am on Thesday 22rd March, followed by cremation at Southend on Sea Crematorium. Plowers to the church, or donations to Amesey International. Enquiries to F.P. Guiver & Sons Ltd; 01702 467426.

Wills-On March 16th indicate y after a long illness, Frank, 51 former of the ITC. Funeral service March 24th at St. Marylebone Crematorius East End Road, N2 at 2.30pm. No flowers pleas Donations to Eden Hall Marie Curie Centre, c/o Levertun and Sons Ltd., 0181 444 5753.

WESON - Barbara (née
Porter). Peacefully at
Ameabury Abbey Nurving
Home, Wiltshire on 16th
March in ber Sård year.
Widow of Col. Douglas
Thorburn, DSO, OSE, MC,
Highland Light Infaniry
and of Col. Alan Wilson,
OSE, MC Royal Engineers.
Late of Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire, her
birthplace and home for
many years. Greatly loyed
mother of Elizabeth of
(Dickins) and Robin,
grandmother of seven and
great-grandmother of
three. Also much loyed
stepmother and stepgrandmother to ber
cricanded family of
Cierachs and Wilsons. She
will be greatly missed.
Funeral Service at Si
Puter's, Berkhamsded at
11.00am, Friday 28th
March. Homesten U 11.00m, Friday 26th March, thereafter private committal at Chilterns march, thereafter private committed at Chilterns Cremstorium. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to British Red Cross, e/o-Malcoim Jones and Mercalfe, 224 High Street. Berkhamsted. Tel 01442

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World, EBC (Erinu's Broadcast-

ing Company) and EMU-TV

—the pair made guest appear-ances at Royal Variety per-formances, on This is Your

Life, the Parkinson show and

many others, and were a great

hit as far afield as Hollywood.

were Hull's heyday, but diffi-cult times lay ahead. In 1986 he bought a 32-room Eliza-

bethan mansion in Kent for

£350,000 with the aim of

restoring it. By this time he was winding down his show-

business career and hoping

for a peaceful, bucolic retire-

The Seventies and Eighties

OBITUARIES

Rod Hull, entertainer, died after a fall from a ladder on March 17 aged 63. He was born on August 13, 1935.

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Sta

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IN HARNESS with his absurd avian accomplice, the noute but aggressive glove pupper Emu. Rod Hull made himself a fairly effortless career as television's most famous uritant. The victims of legion, since neither was any respecter of persons. Thus, when Emu met the Queen Mother at a Royal Variety show in 1972 he proceeded to browse on her bouquet. Her Majesty bore the imposition with equanimity.

The most notorious occasion on which Hull and Emu made one of the great and good lose his rag was the day they set

Harry Callahan, American

photographer and teacher, died on March 15 aged 86.

He was born in Detroit on October 22, 1912.

of indignation among British

critics. Why were there so few

photographers of comparable

merit in Britain when the

same period had produced a

surfeit of American talent?

that British photography had

. Apart from his work, which

was widely shown following

his first exhibition in 1946 at

New York's Museum of Mod-

hugely influential teacher. In

1946 Arthur Siegel invited him

to join Laszlo Moholy-Nagy's

of Design in Chicago, where

he teamed up with the Ab-

stract Expressionist photogra-

pher Aaron Siskind. He taught there until 1961, when

he left to found a photography department at the Rhode 1s-

land School of Design in

Providence. Many of the suc-

Michigan State University. In

1930 he began work for Chrys-

ler Motors in Detroit. He was

Eslow starter in photography. which he took up as a hobby in

1938 and which came as the

answer to a long search for "something to believe in". He

worked briefly in the photogra-

phy laboratories of General Motors before meetings with

Ansel Adams and Alfred Stieg-

CHAND PREX XXTBALL ASCOT CRECKET, ETC

One plausible answer was

no Harry Callahan.

n 1985 a survey of post-

about Michael Parkinson on the great man's own chat show. The air on the set was perilously close to turning blue as Emu first developed an unhealthy obsession with the regions below the waist-band of Parkinson's trousers, then proceeded to wrestle the chat show host to the ground and finally ate his shoe.

Hull and his psychopathic puppet were totally unrepentant. Their behaviour was, after all, par for the course. Parkinson was rueful but magnanimous in discomfiture: "The only thing I'll ever be remembered for is being attacked by that **** Emu." he said later.

Rod Hull was born on the Isle of Sheppey where by all accounts he grew up a painfully shy child with a stammer.

To cure himself he joined a local concert party at 15. But a showbusiness career did not blossom until after be emigrated to Australia with his first wife Sandra and standard force. wife, Sandra, and young family in 1958 after completing his National Service and qualifying as an electrician:

This skill got him a job on the technical side in a new Australian to be a stational and the second and

Australian television studio. but it was not long before he was writing scripts and host-ing a children's show. In 1969 he found Emu languishing in the props room of the studio and received him form oblining. and rescued him from oblivi-on. It was the start of a relationship from which he was never to be allowed to look back. Soon the pair were cosying up to each other and making life a misery for

In 1970 Hull returned to Britain with his second wife, Cher, whom he had met and married while on tour in Australia. In an astonishingly short time he and the gangling, unmannerly fowl became a national institution on television, with a brand of rough-and-tumble knocka-bout gags that somehow ap-pealed to the young without

scandalising the old. Emu and his manipulator could always be guaranteed to bring out the worst in each other, and their anarchic behaviour was a refreshing change from the somewhat standardised TV studio "good taste" of the day. No one who ventured within range of them was safe from indignity.

But a large unpaid tax bill and other debts compelled him to sell the house in a climate of falling prices, after Besides Hull's own shows -he had spent £250,000 on it. In Rod Hull and Emu, Emu's 1994 he was declared bank-

rupt and had also to sell a villa he had bought in Portugal. His second wife took the three children of their marriage to Australia where, after the conclusion of his bankruptcy case, Hull joined them. But he became homesick for England and after three months returned to this country where he moved into a small cottage in East Sussex.

There he lived quietly, walking, reading, writing poetry and tending his vegetable garden. But he had plans to revive his showbusiness career. He had recently been seen in pantomime in Wind-sor and had made attempts to revive his act with Emu.

There were two daughters of his first marriage, which was dissolved, and two sons and a daughter of his second.



Bringing out the worst in each other. Hull and friend, 1980

HARRY CALLAHAN

everyone around them.



Intensity and concentration: Harry Callahan seen at at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1951

ceeding generation of Ameri-can artist-photographers attended these schools of now almost mythical reputation. Although no scholar himself. Callahan had an intuitive intelligence and his teaching philosophy was to encourage : not have to visit Yellowstone to He attended a public (ie, be a great landscape photograstate) school in Royal Oak, pher. Landscape might exist in a footprint on barren ground. or, as Callahan soon discov-Michigan, after which he studied engineering, though ered, in shimmering reflecfor three semesters only, at

tions on water. He knew he was on the right lines when anthropomorphic references began to surface in his work; for example, the ease with which thick, windswept grasses suggested tresses of hair. He was never certain in his own mind quite what made images work. I just don't know what makes a picture, really - the thing that

followed his hunches. He was always willing to attempt

different, sometimes conflicting, approaches: "I wanted to be a big artist, so I wanted to do everything." As a result his style is hard to summarise. If constant threads run through his ocuvre, they are, first, a strong sense of abstract design in which each element of the print contributes clearly; and, secondly, a belief that a picture must signify more than is instantly apparent on the surface. Whether it be in the

Litz, both of whom he revered, makes it is something encouraged him to pursue an unique. Eleanor and daughter Barbara, or his crotically charged individual course. Adams especially angelt him that you did came more varied as he spare, calligraphic drawings in thought and caught them unawares, thus revealing the exposures, or the spare, calligraphic drawings and anxieties. In this of dead stalks of grass in the snow, the quiet testing and pushing of photography's ability to make symbols is every-where evident. With characteristic humility Callahan made no claims for his own efforts: I don't think anything I do has any monumental thought in any way." Nevertheless, the picture had to convey the right He retired from teaching in intensity and concentration.

In 1950 he made his most celebrated images, a sequence of furtive, close-up heads of pedestrians walking alone series of sophisticated "snap-shot" pictures. of his wife He homed in on women deep along State Street; Chicago.

s are subject to confirmation and should be

received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

and other essays during the 1940s and 1950s, he helped to keep alive the tradition of fine-art photography while many contemporaries went over to social documentary for the new and popular (and well-paid) picture magazines. As his work testifies, Callahan was quietly uncompromising.

1977 to concentrate on colour photography. He had photographed in colour since 1940 but rarely exhibited this - in those days - unfashionable work. These pictures focus on the formal properties of wooden buildings, often the gaily painted clapboard houses

around Cape Cod. In 1978 he became the first American photographer to represent his country at the Venice Biennale. Fame in Britain arrived late, however, and it was not until 1985, when the Welsh Arts Council organised a touring retrospective, that British audiences were introduced to his work in anything resembling comprehensive depth.

He once said that if he had any ambition, it was to "touch the spirit in people". Quiet, tongue tied and humble, he was liked and respected by all who met him. After his retirement he remarked that his "life outside photography hasn't been such a big deal". He moved to Atlanta, Georgia, in the mid-1980s to be near his daughter and continued his photography until he suffered a stroke in 1997.

He is survived by his wife and most devoted model, Eleanor Knapp, whom he married in 1936, and by their daughter Barbara

GERHARD HERZBERG

Gerhard Herzberg spectroscopist, died in Ottawa on March 3 aged 94. He was born in Hamburg on December 25, 1904.

A PIONEER in the development of spectroscopy for the study of molecules. Gerhard Herzberg was not only pre-eminent in the field, but for many years he was the field. His books defined the subject, and at the National Research Council in Ottawa he established a laboratory that led the world. As a naturalised Canadian who made his affection for his adopted country plain, Herz-berg became a father figure to Canadian science, and continued working productively un-til the age of 90.

He was born in Hamburg, and soon showed promise. At the age of 12 he and a friend, Alfred Schulz, built their own telescope, grinding the lenses and mounting them in a metal tube. On clear nights they would take a tram to the city park and study the Moon and planets. But when he applied to Hamburg Observatory for a job, he was told: "There is no point in thinking of a career in astronomy unless one has private means of support."

His support came from his mother, widowed when he was ten, and a private scholarship from a German industrialist. He entered the Technical University at Darmstadt to study physics in 1924 and within four years he had completed his doctorate and published 12 papers in atomic and molecular physics. He won a post-doctoral fellowship at Göttingen, working under Max Born and James Franck. He then spent a year at the University of Bristol, before returning to Darmstadt.

In 1934, warned that he would be dismissed because his wife was Jewish, Herzberg appealed for help to the

Saskatchewan, Walter Murray, through a young scientist who had studied with him in Darmstadt Murray wrote to both the University of Toronto and the National Research Council, saying that if they could not offer Herzberg a job, the University of Saskatchewan would do so, despite a

desperate shortage of money. The Herzbergs arrived in Saskatoon in September 1935 with \$2.50 in my pocket", as Herzberg later recalled. He stayed for ten years, during which his classic books Atom-

ic Spectra and Atomic Structure (1936) and Molecular Spectra and Molecular Structure (1939) were published.

Spectroscopy is the use of light to identify atoms and molecules by the frequencies they emit or absorb. Herzberg used the technique to study many molecules, including those that make only a fleeting appearance in the course of a chemical reaction. In the auturns of 1959 his team finally captured the spectrogram of methylene, a highly unstable "free radical" consisting of a carbon atom with two hydrogen atoms attached.

It had taken him 18 years. but proving that it existed even for a fraction of a second - was the key to understanding many chemical reactions.

more than 30 other free radicals, he won the 1971 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, He was in Leningrad on a lecture tour and, given no more than the bare notification that he had won, assumed that the prize was for physics. By then he had also realised his ambition to become an astronomer, serving for three years as

Professor of Spectroscopy at the Yerkes Observatory in Chicago. But he missed Canada, and found the atmosphere of McCarthy America reminiscent of prewar Germany. He returned to the NRC in Ottawa in 1948, where he remained for the rest of his long life.

The beauty of spectroscopy is that distance is no obstacle, so that light from distant stars can be analysed and used to determine their structure. Herzberg found that a rare form of carbon exists in comets, and discovered free radicals in interstellar gas and hydrogen in the atmospheres of some planets.

He remained throughout his life a scientist's scientist. untempted by celebrity. He resisted efforts by bureaucrats to channel spending only towards applied research for which an application could be identified. You shouldn't do science just to improve wealth," he said. "Do science for the sake of human culture

and knowledge."

Modest and cheerful, he was fond of music and at one stage in his life had contemplated becoming an opera

Working on past the age of 65 with the agreement of the NRC, he discovered the spectrum of triatomic hydrogen in his eighties, and did not officially retire until he was 90. His first wife Luise died in 1971. He is survived by his second wife Monika, and a son and daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN LEGAL NOTICES TICKETS FOR SALE FLIGHTS MEMORIAL SERVICES DIRECTORY PROWISE - Capt. Terramon Heary James. A Service of Thenkspiving held at St Peter's Church. Bramshaw Sunday 21st March at MATRIES Chemp. Eng V Po-, Engity World Cop. Calciest fell Cop. Worldsgree Cop Fi-Accot. Chelrhers Gold Cop. Jones Priz. Wimbledon Debs NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF JOINT ARMEDISTRATIVE 2007 VIEW PRICEPOOL HOMES LINETED TA BENOVE HUBSING & INSURPRITAL FORMS DISCUSS TO SERVEN TRACE FLIGHT SEARCHERS Emopa, USA 2 most dasche-tions, Diplomost Emvel Services Lat: 0371 790 2201. ASTA 25703 LATA ATOL 1355 All Major sporting sweats, to Tel: 0171 394 \$293 CC's DISCOUNT OF THE PARTY OF THE PA FIRST CLASS ETLINE IN MEMORIAM -ENTERTAINMENT PRIVATE 11 March 1999 by \$400 OF LGHM - Angelique Halen Mary tragically died 19th March 1932 aged 28 years. Simply the Best Daughter stry mother ever had. God Riess you Darling. Love Mare 01920 484007 FUELL VEP PACKAGE MATCH TICKET Jetworld ANNOUNCEMENTS TEL: 0181 970 2600 0171 360 1111 PAM - 275 ORLAND - ETA PORTYGAL IS GARADA 19 MALTA IN CARBREAN 19 WOODWARD - Megan inte Burdeni. Left us one year ago today. Missad more than ever by son Gary. sister Carol, father Harold PREMIER EVENTS HAVE ANNOUNCEMENTS **ALL TICKETS** ily. Every day we ENG Y FRANCE 91273 277 877 AVA, YOUR POICE. WALES Y ENG ENG Y POLAND **CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS** CRICKET W/CUP BIRTHDAYS CHELT'M & ASCOT ALL GRAND PROTS THEATRE & CONCERTS FARESAVERS need our love and practical support, not just today but every day. Sadly, money cannot buy healthy kidneys but it can make life worth having 0171 283 5050 Donations urgerally needed by the British Kidney Patient WANTED Association FOR SALE 01476:592095 Bardon, Hants, GUS 917. PORT price paid. Finance semi taggines & details to Box 5504 BEFE Reg. Churity No. 270283 FLIGHTSEEKERS TICKETS FOR SALE These any date dis plus from 1880's These same Mathdasel Tal- 0171 726 2626 LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & ACCESS PICKETS World Wilds Sporting Events, Top West End Shows & Fop Comparts 0172 521 5616 All Augh MATURE South for this William Microsom Stations, but way PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES time, 4 in a row, best location, (50 yea) Tel 0636 730730 Per 02466 700552 test, REM, All Pop. Theses Regby & Sport 0171 536 0781 0171 663 4425 TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE: THE THANKS - 1791 - 1999 other ci-ties swellable. Ready for presen-tation - also Sandary. Emma-her Whim. 0121 763 6363 or Cell Free 0500 520000 MAPTET IN LONDON Protesto Chicago, Suigna, All yop & 190 Wa dollwar 0177 970 8634 Telephone 0171 680 6878 CHADITO BOOK Fax 0171 782 7930 HOSPITALITY ALL TICKETS 6 NATIONS WORLD CHP CHELTERSIAN FLATSHARE Or Email tri features@newsint.co.uk

WILLETTS PROFESSOR RONALD

Ronald Willetts, Professor of Greek at Birmingham University, 1970-80, died on February 19 aged 83. He was born on April 2, 1915.

RONALD WILLETTS was a classical scholar and Hellenist with a wide range of interests and expertise. His scholarship was founded on a deep commitment to the Greek language and Greek literature, but as his published work shows, he was equally at home as an ancient historian and

philologist.
Ronald Frederick Willens went up to Birmingham University in the 1930s from Halesowen Grammar School, and read Classics in a lively department of Greek headed by E. R. Dodds, who was succeeded, on his election in 1936 to the Oxford chair, by Professor George Thomson. Both men greatly influenced Willetts.

Amid the intellectual ferment of the 1930s, Willetts was involved in left-wing and anti-Nazi political groups; Birming-

ham University was then also the focus of a thriving community of the arts, particularly with the poet Louis MacNeice as a lecturer in the Department of Greek.

After graduating. Willetts taught for a year before serving with the Army in India and Burma from 1940 to 1946. In hospital in India he was nursed by Jane Dann, whom he married in 1945.

At the end of the war

Willetts returned to Birmingham as lecturer in Greek rising eventually to be chairman of the School of Hellenic and Roman Studies. He was the leading authority on the history and society of later Ancient Crete, on which he published two books early in his career. He also wrote papers on Ancient Cyprus. including one that threw light

on Homer's baffling references to double door locking mechanisms, which he had been to investigate on a door from a village house in the Museum of Nicosia. But Willetts also had wider interests. He wrote on Ancient Greek dance and the Ancient Greek dialects, and on Aristophanes and Euripides both of whom he translated for stage productions.

He wrote poetry of his own, publishing seven volumes beween 1960 and 1994. Some of the poems were inspired by his love of the Greek poets. especially Homer and Aeschylus: a few reflected his experience of war in the East; many drew on his travels, expressing moments of insight and emotional response in Greece and the islands that he loved. As well as former students.

who were grateful for the way his teaching brought Greek literature and thought to life, his friends included many from across the range of university faculties and in the arts. He was for five years the Public Orator of Birmingham University.

In the last few years, as his health failed, he was sustained by the devotion of his wife. who survives him together with their daughter.

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

IT IS surprising that in Landon Wellington's campaigns are only commemorated by some five field guns and 200 cuirasses, and all of Marlborough's campaigns are represented by a pair of kettledrams and two field guns, these relics being preserved in the Tower of London, together with a few but priceless specimens of armour. The war of the last five years has been of such a nature that it should be recorded by the means of tangible objects for

On March 17, 1917, the War Cabinet approved the formation of a National War Museum for the collection and preservation of trophies, books, maps, posters, works of art, and other material, and at a later date the title was altered to the Imperial War Museum. A committee, representing the Admiralty, War Office, Air Force, Ministry of Munitions.

Library and Art, have been for three years ing material . . . As the time progressed the Services showed keen interest in collecting for the museum, and on the naval side many valuable historical objects were deposited, including guns and other relies from the Vindictive and ships in action at Zeebrugge, from subma-

ON THIS DAY

March 19, 1920

In 1917 the War Cabinet approved the formation of a National War Museum. What later became the Imperial War Museum in London is now visited by 500,000 people a year.

rines, from the ill-fated Hampshire and Lusitania, together with many scientific instruments. For the models of ships the museum authorities are under a great obligation to the various shipbuilding firms, who generously contributed more than 50 ifficent scale models, ranging from battleships to trawlers. The submarine warfare is exemplified by a large section model showing the interior of a submarine, this illustration being amplified by actual fittings from some of the surrendered submarines.

On the Army side the regiments have

contributed a number of trophies captured by their several battalions, and an extremely interesting and valuable collection of models has been formed showing trench warfare. A model in course of construction illustrates the landing at Gallipoli, and a relief map over 100ft, long showing the British front in March, 1918. From the Tank Headquarters representative examples of mechanical warfare have been received, and here again the models are employed to show the various operations employed in tank warfare . . .

The section devoted to women's work must overlap that of munitions to a certain extent but it will be of incalculable interest in the future not only from an historical point of view, but also for economic reasons, to see the large amount of tathe and mechanical work which was produced by women only during the war. The Records, which in many cases will not be suitable for exhibition, form a very large section of the Museum and comprise innumerable Army reports, orders and memoranda. The records of the Women's Section give a very complete history of women's work and dilution in factories.

To continue storing all these exhibits in separate buildings became impossible, and it was therefore decided to rent certain portions of the Crystal Palace so that the whole collection might be adequately shown. It is hoped to open the exhibition in May.

and the same of th

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Dome tickets to cost up to £20

The Millennium Dome will be Britain's most expensive tourist attraction, with adults paying £20 each for full-price tickets. Admission prices for the £758 million exhibition announced by the New Millennium Experience Company are particularly steep for the elderly. Single pensioners must pay £18 for a ticket - a discount of just 10 per cent

Times tipster's 3,000-1 treble

The final day of the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival was a triumph for the trainer Paul Nicholls and for The Times racing tipster Rob Wright. Nicholls produced See More Business to win the Tote Gold Cup at 16-1, part of a treble for Wright who also tipped Anzum for the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle and Space Trucker for the Grand Annual Chase. An investment of £1 on the three horses would have won £3,136.50 Page 1

Lorry protest

Deliant ministers held firm last night over E2billion of motoring tax increases despite threats from protesting lorry drivers to bring London to a standstill...... Page 2

Balloon triumph

Brian Jones, 51, has piloted the Breitling Orbiter 3 to within one day and under three thousand miles of going round the world in ...Page 3

GM food penalties

Shops and supermarkets face fines of up to £5,000 from today if they fail to label any food which contains genetically modified soya and maize...

Falling angels

The Roman Catholic church is diluting its belief in angels and strengthening opposition to executions — but masturbation is no longer always a sin...... Page 5

Denning, the sleuth

The late Lord Denning trapped Body parts scandal the infamous "headless man" into revealing his role in the scandalous 1963 divorce of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, her biographer says today...

Funeral anger

Rosemary Nelson, the human rights lawyer, was buried after a funeral in Lurgan, Co Armagh, that doubled as a demonstration of nationalist anger Page 9

Bedroom culture

Parents are giving their children more televisions, videos, computers and CD players to use in their bedrooms to compensate for their restricted lifestyles......Page 10

Rubella alert

There is a growing danger of an epidemic of rubella because the proportion of infants being immunised has been falling for more Page 13 than four years.....

Santer attacked

Members of the independent inquiry which brought down the European Commission attacked Jacques Santer and his team for rejecting their verdict......Page 15

Naked politics

Russian insomniacs raised eyebrows as they watched grainy footage of Yuri Skuratov, the Prosecutor-General, cavorting naked across their television screens with two young women...Page 16

Egypt's establishment moved with rare alacrity to try to scotch allegations that 25 children had been sold to hospitals and killed for their body parts......Page 17

Slavery allegation A high-ranking Burundian civil

servant at Unesco in Paris has been deprived of diplomatic immunity amid accusations that he enslaved his niece......Page 19

New incident on the Yangtze

In an extraordinary gesture of goodwill two admirals from Britain and China marked the events that followed the Communists' shelling of the frigate, HMS Amethyst, in the Yangtze River 50 years ago. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce Admiral Zhao Guojun, dropped a wreath into the muddy waters of the Yangtze to honour the 17 British and Chinese who died........ Pages 1. 14

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,055



A boy jumps from a statue of Davie Cooper, the Scottish footballer who died aged 39 in 1995, at an unveiling in Hamilton, his home town

in the red: Rover, the troubled UK car manufacturer, incurred losses of £645 million last year, BMW dis-

.Page 27 Oil rises: The sharp recovery in oil prices continued as Saudi Arabia, the world's largest producer, moved to implement a substantial Page 27 cut in output. No party: Hanover International,

close its hotels over the new year after concluding that staff and entertainment costs would outweigh the benefits of staying open for millennium festivities... Page 27 Markets: The FTSEI00 fell 26.3 to 6114.3. The pound rose .05 cents to \$1.6302 and .15p to 67.40p against the euro. The pound index rose to

102.5 from 102.4.

the four-star hotel operator, is to

Football: Kevin Keegan used his first England squad announcement to rehabilitate players such as Chris Sutton, Ray Parlour and Andy Cole... ...Page 52 Boxing: Lennox Lewis called on Evander Holyfield to give him the World Boxing Association and In-

ternational Boxing Federation belts

the world thinks are his Page 50

Rugby union: Massimo Giovanelli.

the Italy captain, is certain to be picked to play against Wales after a ban for stamping was overturned on a technicality Olympic Games: Statistics show that The IOC has total savings of £135 million and that £137,000 was spent by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, on living expenses

... Page 49

Tomorrow in

The Saturday

Times

Meet Ramon Vega,

Spurs , Cup finalist

...Page 30 in Lausanne in 1998.....

Strewth: "I wish I could come to Australia's aid, in this hour of crisis, by offering my own views on Lolita, but I can't." Richard Morrison on movie madness...... Page 35 Parody parade: For 17 years Gerard Alessandrini's show Forbidden Broadway has fed New York appetites for showbiz morsels; now London can share the jokes ___ Page 36. Pop 1: David Sindair reviews the week's new pop albums, from Skunk Anansie's diminished Post Orgasmic Chill to Tim Rice and Elton John's Aida Pop 2: Heroin is a mug's game,

says Caitlin Moran, so why do so many stars of the world of pop still play it? Plus: the work of Craig Armstrong, possibly Britain's busiest musician Page 37

French style... Bewitching: Phyllis Curott is a trained lawyer. She is also a witch. She laughs at remarks about newts and broomsticks. But the high priestess takes her new calling very seriously. Raymond Snoddy: "ITV is cock-aboop over the performance of its new schedule, post-News at Ten. Helped by movie premieres, the net-

> days away from execution when four journalism students were given his case to study ____Page 41-Brain power. Many the parents are becoming convinced by re-

cent research that shows that classi-

work raced to its best performance

Lifesavers: Anthony Porter was

for four years"....

Potted: Jane Shilling finds a source

for pots that placate her fantasy of

cal music can boost a child's general intelligence. Page 43 There's good news and bad news about the Olympic scandals. The

good news is that the IOC expelled. six of its members identified as having taken bribes to award the 2002. Winter Games to Salt Lake City. The bad news is that IOC Chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch is - New York Post

Preview: Contestants trade in their old cars: Trading Up [Channel 4, Spm) Review: Let's face it, these people are nerds, says Paul Hoggart of Top Gear.....Pages 50. 5i

OPINION 2

Always with us

The substance of the Prime Minister's speech was somewhat more significant than the soundbite that accompanied it ___ Page 23

Russia's ring

Weeks of rumours that Mr Yelisin was planning to sack his centrist Prime Minister, the Soviet era grandee Yevgeni Primakov, were denied this week by both President and Prime Minister _____ Page 23

Genetic menu

The intention here is noble enough. But it may be too late. Many people are convinced that GM foods are a threat both to their health, and to the environment.

SIMON JENKINS

Bill Clinton flashed his sequins, danced a jig and put some more bourbon on ice. Resolving Northern Ireland has always seemed that simple to the expatriate Irish of America... _Page 22

BERNARD CONNOLLY

If Europe is evolving at all, it is evolving not towards a nation-state but towards an empire, along the lines of the Prussian-dominated Withelmine bureaucratic Reich, It thus threatens to provide the worst of all worlds.... Page 22.

WILLIAM TREVOR

There was murder in Mayfair, on trains, in airships, in Palm Court lounges, between acts. We had nothing like it in West Cork Page 22

Rod Hull, entertainer: Harry Calla-

han, photographer: Gornard Herzberg, scientist; Ronald Willetts, classical scholar...

EU reform; Argyll case headless man; Prescott's trip to India; Pilate

and crucifixion; four-legged chickens: Gainsborough portrait: tango revival: signs of spring Page 23

1, 7, 29, 38, 45, 46. Bonus: 35

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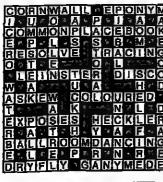
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ACROSS

- 1 I am old-fashioned you can't get away from it (7).
- 5 Study a lot of pupils fit in (7). 9 Senior policeman competes noisily for control (9).
- 10 Articles made of wood about ten, at the outside (5). 11 From America, detective police-
- man in training (5). 12 Separate part (4,5).
- 13 Poet spurned me ends in trouble (6.7).
- 17 Popular song whose theme involved love and me (4.5,4).
- 21 Blunt, to no avail (9).
- 24 Almost overlooked surrender (5).
- 25 Arrive at church to marry (5). 26 Quiet new editor brought in, for example (9).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,054



27 Talk about singular plant (7). 28 What's missing from front of book? An insect (7).

I Monarch, for example, belonging to religious group (6).

2 Dreadfully parapered, I fancy

Ignorant people turned up - run a limited class (7). Being without is, to a number, extremely credible (9).

5 Part of face, i.e. lip (5). 6 Fruit with covering one's called

bananas? (7). 7 It's the last time doctor goes climbing (5).

8 Minister, a politician making threats (8). 14 Lush, very large mountain-top. as

15 A flightless bird ran round to lead attack (9).

16 Meat cut into small pieces quick-18 Shoulder bag let cash become dis-

organised (7) 19 Eccentric back in the police station? (7). 20 Offensive - enemy departs after

it's over (6). 22 Heads off inland, not the easiest route to Bury (5). 23 My pet is lost - you might get a re-

ward if it's returned (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

The land Office

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Sun sets: 6.11 pm London 6.11 pm to 6.04 am Bristol 6.21 pm to 6.14 am Edinburgh 6.24 pm to 6.16 am Manchester 6.20 pm to 6.13 am





mostly dry. Essentere light run and wintry show-ers. Torright: Scotland and N Ireland mostly dough with patiety reals falling as snow across mountains. Some cloud and light rain will spread into N Engand. Elsewhere dry with a stight ground frost.

iend. Esseware of wan a signt groun trist.

I London, SE England, E Anglia, E and W laid-lands: breazy, curry spela and solated showers.

Moderate RW breazs, Max 12C (54F).

I SW and Cestral S England, Chemnel le-lands: largely dry with surry spelis but breazy.

Moderate NW breaze, Max 12C (54F). ☐ E, NE and Central W England: windy, mostly dry, aurny spells. Fresh MW wind. Max 11C (\$25).

S and N Wales, NW England, Lake District,

wind Max 10C (SOF). Aberdeen, Morey Firth, NE Scotland, Orlinery, Shelland: windy with steel and snow show any, Sheeman, who year also and a sow a com-en. Strong to near-pain NW wind. Max 7C (45F). ☐ SW - and NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argylt surry spells in moning, then largely doubty with light rant turning to ensw on high ground. Fresh NW wind. Max 8C (46F).

[] N Ireland: mainly cloudy, light rain spreading east. Fresh NW wind. Max 11G (52F) ☐ khish Republics bright intervals, mainly dry Moderate NW wind. Max 13C (5SC). ☐ Outlook: Scotland and N ireland sunny spells and ventry chowers, England and Wales cloudy with patchy rain in north.

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YESTERDAY: highest day temp: Boumemouth, Dorset, and Southsee Ha lowest day marc Tulloch Bridge, Hightshid, 7C (45F); highest rainfall: Tut highest sunshine: Newcastle upon Tyrre 10.5ms

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Changes to chart below from noon: low Y will move north, filling; low Z will move slowly northeast; high H will remain in situ



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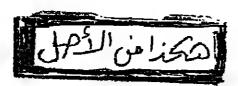
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Lolita oin ban threat Arts, Page 35

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BUSINESS · LAW · ARTS · SPORT · TELEVISION

Elton and Tim's big gamble

Arts, Page 37

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MARCH 19 1999

Oil price takes off after Saudis cut output

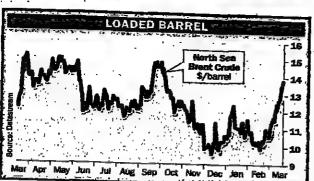
Yesterday's 60 cent rise to

\$13.87 was driven by expecta-

tions that last week's agree-

ment by producers to cut out-

put by two million barrels per



By MARTIN BARROW

THE sharp recovery in oil prices gathered pace yesterday as Saudi Arabia, the world's largest producer, moved to imple-ment a substantial cut in output.

day would be implemented. Brent averaged just \$13.34 per Benchmark Brent crude barrel last year, the lowest in more than 20 years, and mem-bers of the Organisation of Petrofrom the North Sea traded close to \$14 a barrel in London, its highest level in nearly leum Exporting Countries (Opec) six months. Oil prices have lost more than \$50 billion (£3) bilnow risen by almost 40 per lion) in revenues in the year. cent since touching a low of Saudi Arabia, which has \$9.90 in mid-February. been producing 8 million bar-

Japan and South Korea that April deliveries of crude would be cut by at least 11 per cent. Taiwan will also be affected.

Similar moves have been made by Algeria and Iran. which are also Opec members and helped to forge last week's agreement in the Hague. Yesterday Mexico, which is not a member of Opec but is part of the effort to rescue oil prices,

company Pernex to cut daily output by 125,000 bpd.

There is concern that higher oil prices could delay the economic recovery of South-East Asia. During last year's financial crisis Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan, all major importers of crude, were spared fur ther damage by the sharp fall in oil prices, which slashed their energy import bill. The International Energy

Agency (IEA), which monitors

rise in demand for Opec's oil in 1999 because producers outside Opec, such as Russia, are

suffering a decline in output. The IEA expects global demand for oil to remain un-changed at 74.7 million bpd this year but forecasts a rise in oil produced by Opec to 27.1 million bpd from the 26.9 million bpd forecast only a month ago.

> Stock market, page 30 Borneo decision, page 33

Business Today

Oil sector gushes



Alchemy's

rich rewards

RETAIL sales volumes fell in

Willem Buiter, an independent member of the Monetary Policy Committee, added to

ere interest raies no have to move lower.

After a strong bounce-back in retail sales during the January discounting period, vol-umes slipped by 0.3 per cent last month. This left the lessvolatile quarterly growth rate just 1 per cent higher than in the same three months last year, the weakest performance for three years. However, the annual growth rate ticked up from 1.1 per cent to 1.3 per cent.

No big spenders on high street in

By Alasdair Murray ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

February as consumers continued to adopt a cautious approach to high street spending. The weak figures, coupled with separate data showing that money supply growth has fallen to its lowest rate for near-ly four years, left analysts confident that the Bank of England will cut rates again in the near future.

the impression that rates will fall further when he indicated that he will continue to push for rate reductions.

Professor Buiter, who was the sole member of the MPC to have voted for a rate cut at the last meeting, said he favoured moving swiftly to a position

Professor Buiter's ments briefly sent the pound lower on the foreign exchanges, although it recovered to close marginally up against both the dollar and the euro. The markets also shrugged off the European Central Bank's decision to leave rates on hold at 3.0 per cent.

formula pays Jon Moulton's firm reaps February

STOCK MARKET

SS S DOLLAR NORTH SEA OIL

60FD London close ____ \$283.15 (\$294.15)

Cisco chief attacks mergers

By CHRIS AYRES

THE president of Cisco Systems, the \$170 billion manufacturer of telecoms equipment. has challenged the rationale for his industry's urgency to consolidate through mergers

and acquisitions. In an interview with The Times, John Chambers, who is also Cisco's chief executive, predicts that more than 70 per cent of acquisitions in the telecoms industry will fail. He is fiercely critical of the \$20 billion (£12.3 billion) acquisition of Ascend by Lucent Technologies — one of Cisco's main competitors.

Telecom mergers and the acquisition of Internet companies have helped to drive US shares to record highs. But Mr Chambers says recent deals have been belated, overpriced and likely to fail. Acquisition prices "were probably 50 to 100 per cent higher than what we would have paid," he

Cisco kid, page 31

Longbridge doubts grow as Rover losses top £600m

By Adam Jones and

ROVER, the struggling Brit-ish subsidiary of BMW, the German carmarker, made a loss of DM1.87 billion (£645 million) last year — more than seven times the DM260

million deficit in 1997. The size of the losses, which shocked some analysts, come as BMW is thought to be haggling with the UK Government for more money before giving any commitment on the future of the Rover factory at Longbridge in Birmingham, which directly employs about 14,000 people.

Ahead of yesterday's meeting of the BMW board, the Department of Trade and Industry told executives that it was prepared to contribute towards the cost of developing a new car that would replace the ageing Rover 200 and 400 models in a bid to keep Long.

However, despite leaks that a £200 million offer is on the table, there were suggestions last night that the DTI offered just £100 million. BMW is thought to be looking for at least £180 million.

None of the parties in the negotiations would discuss the size of the offer yesterday. The OTI emphasised that the "indication" of an aid package would be open to further discussion after BMW considered it yesterday.

The Government's offer of aid is linked to productivity increases, training improvements and new investment which is likely to cost BMW a total of £1.7 billion.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and industry Secretary, said:



The package we have put to BMW is complex and we therefore expect to have further discussions in the next few

Although some sources had been suggesting yesterday that there could be an announcement on Longbridge's future at the end of next week, it now seems likely that the process will drag on longer.

BMW has previously given warning that the new Rover model could be built in Humgary instead of the UK.

It said yesterday: "Given the current stage of discussions with the British Government, the BMW board has not yet decided on the investment site for production of the successor to the Rover 200 and 400

Prior estimates of the 1998 loss at Rover had differed wildly - from £200 million to £1 billion. Rover's woes have been caused by the strong pound and provisions against the cost of making more than 2,500 staff redundant. BMW has not given any breakdown

The strength of sterling reduced earnings from Rover ex-

Hanover guarantees

ports, which account for about 56 per cent of produc-

tion. The pound conversely hit Rover's domestic market aiding foreign imports from companies such as Peugeot and Renault. The Rover losses caused BMW group net profits to slump from DM1.246 billion in 1997 to DM903 million last year.

loaded the 1998 results with as many Rover losses as it could find, rather than shifting them

Georg Stürzer, automobile

into next year's figures. Commentary, page 29

analyst at HypoVereinsbank, said: "The sum of DM1.87 bil-

lion for Rover losses is indeed

at the very high end of our ex-

pectations." But he added that he believed that BMW had

*BICC shuns bid from Wassall

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

BICC Group, the troubled and much-restructured engineer-

ing company that made a £94 million loss last year, has rejected a possible £380 million takeover bid from Wassall, its second biggest shareholder. Wassall, an industrial condomerate, said last night that it had sought BICC's support for an offer pitched at 90p a share, 8p above yesterday's closing price. But Alan Jones, BICC chief

executive, described the price as "ridiculously low and op-portunistic". Mr Jones added: "I really don't think it is anything like value for the company. People are saying we are turning the company

around and that there is a lot

Speculation about a takeover bid for BICC has been rife since Wassall snared a stake at 57p in the group in November and it now holds 9.3 per cent of the group. BICC's share price has edged up from a low of 38p last year, due in part to the company's sale of its troublesome businesses and a sharp reduction in its debt load. Its efforts to rebuild its market image were dealt a blow this month when it unveiled a £94

million pre-tax loss for 1998. Chris Miller, chief executive of Wassall, said: "This proposal should be brought to the attention of BICC shareholders."

a millennium break

HANOVER International, the four-star hotel operator, is to close its botels over the new year after concluding that staff and entertainment costs would outweigh the benefits of staying open to celebrate the millennium.

Peter Eyles, executive chairman, said that the levels of service would have been difficult to guarantee.

"I don't think much money will be made by hotels," he said. "The cost of hiring enter-tainment has gone through the roof and any staff willing to work will charge a king's

BY DOMINIC WALSH

Mr Eyles said that making its computer systems year 2000 compliant had cost the company £250,000. "Even then," he added, "I don't think anybody can say with any cer-tainty what will happen on January 1."

Hanover's decision to close Reading, Daventry, Hinckley,

its six hotels - in Skipton. Huddersfield and Ashbourne is in contrast with its peers. In a recent survey of 60 London hoteliers, Pannell Kerr Forster, the leisure consultancy, found that just one was contemplating shutting up shop for New Year's Eve.

Shares of Hanover fell 8p to 11714p despite the company uncent jump in 1998 profits before tax and exceptionals to £3.2 million, from turnover up 8 per cent to £21.4 million: Earnings per share reached

15.8p (10.5p) and a final dividend of 0.9p gives a total payout for the year of 1.5p (1.0p).

Mr Eyles said that Hanover was looking to add new hotels in the coming months. It is thought to be discussing a £15 million deal to acquire a long lease on the Ashford International in Kent, currently operated by Queens Moat Houses.

Gucci rebuffs LVMH claim

THE fragile truce between LVMH and Gucci was broken last night after the Italian fashion house issued early profit figures to prove it is in better financial health than its French

Gucci, due to release its results next week, said its 1998 profits rose by 11 per cent. This compares favourably with a 29 per cent decline by the whole LVMH group, which returned its final results yester-

day.
The move came on the eve of peace talks, which the two sides are due to start in Amsterdam today. They will discuss whether LVMH's recently built 34.4 per cent stake in

By Fraser Nelson Gucci allows it a seat on the

> Gucci said it was forced to issue yesterday's statement be-Bernard Arnault, LVMH's chairman, had told Paris analysts it was half as profitable as his Louis Vuitton fashion division.

He told them: "What needs to be done with Gucci now is what we have done with Vuitton for the past 10 years." Domenico De Sole, Gucci's chief executive, said the compa-

ny made a net profit of \$195 million (£120 million) on sales up 7 per cent at \$1.04 billion

Commentary, page 29

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Westland plans to merge with Italian rival

THE controversy over Westland Helicopters, which al-most brought down Marga-ret Thatcher's Government 13 years ago, came full circle yesterday when the company announced an agreement to merge with Agusta of Italy.

In 1986 the fate of the ailing Westland sparked furious exchanges in the Cabinet. It had negotiated a rescue by Sikorsky of America but Michael Heseltine, then Deence Secretary, wanted Westland to merge with a Europe-an consortium including Brit-ish Aerospace, Aerospatiale of France and Agusta, When this plan was rejected, Mr He-seltine resigned from the Cabinet in protest.

Mr Heseltine's desire for a European merger is now betion of how the political climate has swung in his fa-

GKN. Westland's latest parent, has signed a "heads of agreement - a preliminary deal -- with Finmeccanica, Agusta's owner. It will combine Westland and Agusta in a 50:50 joint venture company that will have a turnover of about £1.5 billion in 2000.

Tony Blair has come out in favour of European mergers and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, welcomed the move, which requires regulatory approval.

However, the chances of this European consolidation going one step further are being hampered by the involvement of the French State. Through its stake in Aero-

spatiale, the French Government owns part of Eurocopter, the other big European helicopter group. The other shareholder is Dasa of Germany, Aerospatiale's part-

ner in the Airbus consorti-

David Wright, the GKN di-rector who will be chairman of the Westland-Agusta joint venture, agreed yesterday

that the state involvement in Eurocopter made a pan-European merger less likely.

The other big helicopter makers are Boeing, Bell and Sikorsky. Mr Wright said that he thought only Boeing would have larger sales in 2000.

GKN Westland's order book stands at \$6.3 billion (£3.9 billion). Agusta's at \$2.2 billion. The pair jointly devel-oped the EHIOI military heli-copter ordered by the UK, Italy and Canada.

Amadeo Caporaletti, chief executive of Agusta, will be chief executive of the joint venture. The board will be equal-ly composed of GKN and Fin-meccanica representatives.

Bank deal could lead to rerating

By Marianne Curphey

CLAUDE BEBEAR, chairman of AXA, a key shareholder in the putative three-way merger between Banque Na-tionale de Paris (BNP), Parib-as and Société Général, said that the creation of the new entity would lead to a rerating of French retail banking.

AXA, the second-largest insurance company in the world, holds 6 per cent of BNP and 8 per cent of Paribas. M Bébear revealed that Michel Pébereau, director-general of BNP, had consulted him before convincing the rest of BNPs board that he should launch the hostile bid for SG and Paribas.

M Bébéar said that he be-lieved the deal would create value for shareholders, was good for the three companies involved and would not mean too many job losses. The new bank would be the largest in euroland.

He said: "BNP is on a p/e mu-tiple of 12, while the others are ten to 11. The average European hank is on a rating of 14 to 16." AXA unveiled a 16.5 per cent rise in income before taxes and minority interests to Fr24.5 billion (£2.6 billion).



Fresh food boosts Geest

salads, soups, sauces and

GEEST, the chilled foods group, lifted profits 15 per cent in 1998 as it continued to benefit from a wide-ranging re-structuring that centred on the disposal of its banana business three years ago (Martin

Barrow writes).

Reporting pre-tax profits of £28.1 million for last year, the company said its prepared

pasta market was set for double-digit sales growth in Geest shares rose lop to

425p yesterday. The total dividend is increased 20 per cent to 12p a share with a 7.2p final, payable from earnings that rose 19 per cent to 30.3p. lan Menzies-Gow, chair-

Turnover from continuing

and lifestyle changes are supporting growth in fresh pre-pared foods, some of the fastest-growing areas of the food sector. We will continue to expand our business to meet this

businesses was up 14 per cent

Irish Life profits increase

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

IRISH LIFE, the insurer than is set to merge with Irish Permanent next month to create the Republic's third largest financial services provider, saw a 20 per cent rise in operating profits in 1998, its last full year as an independent.

Operating profits rose to Ir£136.9 million (£118 million) after tax from IrEII3.8 million. There was a 26 per cent increase in sales of life, pensions and investment business which reached

Ir£140 million.
After a difficult 1997, in which the company's 400-strong sales force went on strike in protest at a shake-up of the business, Irish Life saw total sales in Ireland rebound 28 per cent to ir£94.1 million.

Demand from private investors was strong with re-tail sales up 39 per cent to. IrE42.6 million. Because of the merger with Irish Per-manent a second interim: dividend of IrIO.2p is being paid in lieu of a final dividend. This lifts the total 10 per cent to Irl4.5p a share.

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BT to make Italian mobile licence bid

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday said it is to bid for fialty's fourth mobile telephone licence, and signalled that it is "highly unlikely" that it would get involved in Olivetti's €53 billion (£36 billion) takeover battle for Telecom Italia.

BT said it is to bid for the licence as part of a consortium called Blue, which includes Autostrade, Mediaset, Benetion

and Distacom. Gaining the licence would give BT access to Europe's largest mobile phone market, with more than 21 million customers and market penetration of 40 per cent.

"Italy is Europe's most dynamic mobile market with im-mense potential for further growth, which a fourth licence would bring," said Pat Gallagher, BT's director of Europe. The licence will be awarded in June.

BT's indication that it is steering clear of the Telecom Italia situation came as Robert Colaninno. Olivetti's chief executive, was in London presenting to analysts on its takeover bid.

Web bookshop float

THE improfitable barnesandnoble.com, an Internet book-shop run by Barnes and Noble, America's biggest bookstore chain, and Germany's Bertelsmann, will publicly float a 15 to 20 per cent stake. The initial public offering, announced yesterday, will raise as much as \$200 million (£123 million) to fund the massive marketing costs of the Web battle against the rival bookseller Amazon.com. Losses at barnesandnoble: com have grown as marketing costs have exceeded revenue.

Piasecki plans buyout

JUREK PIASECKI, chairman and chief executive of Goldsmiths, yesterday revealed details of his plan to buy the jeweller out at 183p a share, and swore that he would "never again" take it back to the Stock Exchange. Goldsmiths was floated at 150p a share in 1990 after a management buyout that Mr Piasecki led. Mr Piasecki and his venture capital backers, Alchemy Partners, are offering a total of £43.9 million to buy the company off its present shareholders. Golden touch, page 31

Savings rates on the up

NATIONAL SAVINGS is increasing the rates on its fixed-rate products by up to 0.4 per cent after the increases in the medium-term money market rates. However, variable rate accounts remain unchanged and could go down if the bank base rate falls below 5.5 per cent. New savers with more than £20,000 in First Option Bonds will be paid 4.9 per cont instead of 4.75 per cent. Rates on Children's, Pensioners' and Capital bonds are 4.65 per cent for five years, up from 4.25 per cent.

Kwik-Fit shares leap

KWIK-FIT shares leapt 8½ per cent yesterday after the car re-pair company said the slack conditions that led to a profits warning in January had evaporated. It returned pre-tax profits of £64.3 million (£55.1 million) for the year to February 28. - back to in line with expectations. The company said that business since the warning had risen sharply. Earnings were 26p (22.3p) per share. The total dividend rises to 7.5p (6.5p) after a final 4.85p. The shares closed up 34½p to 439½p.

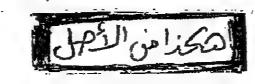
King World in talks

KING World Productions, the distributor of the Oprah Win-frey Show and other syndicated US TV shows, is in talks with potential buyers. Advised by Frank Biondi Jr, former head of Universal Studios, the management of King World — which has a \$1 billion (£600 million) cash hoard earmarked for acquisitions — is said to be looking for a deal, with CBS, Sony, Fox Entertainment and NBC reportedly in the frame.

Midshires go-ahead

THE TAKEOVER of Birmingham Midshires by the Halifax overcame its final major hurdle yesterday when the Building Societies Commission gave the go-ahead. The transfer of Birmingham Midshires from building society to independent division of the Halifax is on target for completion on April 19. The basic windfall distribution to members is £1,250, but the cash payout ranges from £800 to £5,400.

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3CH to 1999

the scene-setting for today's meeting between emissaries of Gucci and LVMH does not point towards an early

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 19 1999

and amicable solution to their

dispute. Handbags at dawn seemed a more likely outcome of the figure-slinging of yesterday. For a man contending that he should be welcomed aboard by Gurri because of the experiment.

Gucci because of the expertise and enhanced profits he can

bring, it was perhaps unfortu-nate that Bernard Arnault had to reveal a drop of almost 30 per cent in net operating income. But the ever-inventive M Arnault is not the sort to let that stand is his way. He chose instead to the

last year, a point worth noting if you should be thinking of buying a new suitcase or wallet.

Vuitton usually nestles in the cat-

egory known as "fashion and leather goods", alongside such darlings of the fashionistas as Dior and Givenchy, the news of

this impressive performance bursts upon the catwalk, its prov-

enance hard to ascertain.

Since in the LVMH accounts

Handbags at dawn

should be allowed to indulge in the Amault technique and choose to do battle on the margins he makes on stilletto heels.

De Sole is understandable un-nerved by M Arnault's interest in his business. The prospect of the LVMH chairman, now proud owner of a 34.4 per cent in Gucci.
offering help and advice on how he should be running things might not enthuse many a corpo-rate leader who thinks that he is doing a fine job on his own.
But Arnualt will not go away.

way. He chose instead to concentrate on the performance of just a small, but perfectly formed, part of his business. Louis Vuriton Malletier, he boasted, enjoyed operating margins of 46 per cent last year a point worth noting if He turned down the opportunity to buy Gucci in 1994, before designer Tom Ford had arrived with his must-have velvet shirts and transformed the business. Like Edith Piaf, Arnault insists he has no regrets, that his skill is in making successful brands even better, not risking shareholders' cash on unproven ones, but the line is not entirely convincing. His latest investment, a young cosmetics company which claims

to operate "the hottest spa in New York", indicates a more flexible approach to portfolio building! Yet there is no doubt that, even-Gucci, which reports next week, can only pour scorn on the Arnault show and concentrate on the fact that its profits are up tually, he would like to add Gucby II per cent, even if its margins are only 18 per cent. Perhaps chairman Domenico De Sole cl to his stable. He may be prepared to agree not to increase his share stake for several years but **COMMENTARY** by our City Editor

he does not intend to abandon Gucci this time. So De Sole must find a way to live with his new shareholder.

This is where the issue becomes far more important than frocks. The battle between the two has shown up the flaws in Dutch company law to the horror of investors in both companies. Their eventual compromise will have to be followed by changes in the law.

Westland picks its own bride at last

estland's merger with Agusta, its long-term soulmate, will have taken an age - if it comes off. A week is a long time in politics; 13 years is an age even in business. The detail of what happened when the 1985 British Government tried to grapple with the fate of privately owned Westland has become a little fuzzy even if

the outline remains melodramatically coloured. In essence, a company that was even then of only modest size and strategic importance became the battleground between the Atlanticists and pro-Europeans of British politics. There was, you remember, the day when Michael Heseltine

stormed out of Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet meeting because he claimed he was not getting a fair hearing for his European merger solution to the problem of Brit-ain's Westland helicopter group. In retrospect, it was the moment that his claim to succeed Mrs Thatcher lapsed and perhaps also when the seeds were sown for the Tory disaster of 1997.

On the other long-term thinking, however, Mr Heseltine's w stands up better. Even then, the Defence Secretary had a vi-sion of Europe-wide defence corporations that is now common currency, though still being stymied by French statism.
The financially easier solution

to Westland's industrial problems, at that time, was a deal with America's Sikorsky, anoth-

er long time ally.
This plan originally had an Italian element too, but it was Fiat rather than Agusta. The Atlantic solution won the support of the board, Mrs Thatcher and Lord Hanson, one of several colourful figures who played roles in the exaggerated drama. Lord Hanson, in the end, deliv-

ered the US deal in the market. But Sir Leon Brittan, then Trade Secretary, was the prime minister's loyal political agent. He was also the other main casualty, having to quit his job to take the blame for dirty tricks in White-hall's corridors of power.

How odd then that Europe's champion should end up reform-ing the poll tax while Sir Leon, the cap-doffingly loyal Atlanti-cist, was made a British Commissioner in Brussels as second best to his stalled domestic career. Sir Leon has been at the centre

of European Commission affairs for years as a deputy president but has somehow emerged from the second great scandal of his ca-reer as a reforming Mr Clean. Clearly Sir Leon gained some-thing from the Westland experi-

thing from the Westland experience. And at last Westland may have found its European future.

EU traders beware American deficit

this year's least surprising record so far is America's latest monthly trade deficit. Surpassing even the \$16.7 billion notched up last August, it reached \$17 billion in January. If elcomier forecasts of \$300 billion for the year prove right, there will be more records before buoyant importers start popping the

millennium champagne.
Surging imports should not be the problem. China and others are feeding the US consumption boom and keeping prices down. American unemployment is at a 30-year low even if 337,000 factory jobs have gone in 12 months. Falling exports are more worry-

ing. Markets from Bangkok to Kyoto and from St Petersburg in São Paolo are shrinking. At this

stage, US officials are taking the responsible line. The only way for America to stop being importer of last resort is for other parts of the world to manage more growth. The US needs a buoyant Korea, not a broken one.

Inevitably, that is accompanied by mantras about opening up markets to US exports. This will become ever more a rhetorical refrain as the year unfolds and presidential primaries draw nearer. Japan will remain US public enemy number one but

the EU is a solid number two.

The banana skirmish is still not resolved. It is only a prelude to the similarly compromised EU position on imports of US beef whose growth owes too much to injected hormones. The cold figures will trigger hot words and maybe conflagration.

Dangerous driving

IF, AS seems likely, BMW has chosen to present the worst possible face of Rover in its annual resuits, the strategy is a risky one. Depicting Rover as a basket case may not be the best way of squeezing the maximum subsidy from the Government. Aid of £100 million or £200 million cannot guarantee the future of Long-bridge but it could be an expen-sive way of keeping thousands in work until after the next election. The Richardson brothers of Merry Hill want to buy the site. Let them create new jobs there.

Relax the planning laws, says supermarket chief

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE chairman of Wm Morrison Supermarkets has called on the Government to loosen planning laws so that the Yorkshire-based retailer can compete effectively with its larger rivals such as Tesco and Asda. Morrisons has begun ex-

panding into the South of England but has been able to open only a handful of supermarkets because of the difficulty of winning planning consent for

Ken Morrison said yesterday that the company would like to year, but is able to find only about five or six sites because of the planning restrictions.

The Office of Fair Trading is due to publish in the next fortnight its findings into whether the big four supermarkets -Tesco, J Sainsbury, Asda and Safeway — are making excessively large profits. Mr Morrison said that allowing his company to open more stores would aid healthy competition in the sector.

There has to be a time shortly where the situation has to change for the benefit of the general shopping public and the cost of living." Mr Morri-

Morrison reported better than expected profits for the year to

January 31. On turnover of £2.53 billion (£2.29 billion) the company made pre-tax profit of £174.9 million (£147.4 milor £174.9 million (£147.4 million). On diluted earnings per share of 13.7 million (12.1p) the company is paying a final dividend of 2p, giving a total for the year of 2.45p (2.1p).

Current trading figures show that Morrison's is ahead of the supermarket rack with

of the supermarket pack with 7.3 per cent like-for-like sales growth. While much of this is accounted for by sales of petrol, grocery sales are believed to be up more than 4 per cent like-The comments came as Wm for-like, which is about double

the current sector average. The company opened five new stores last year and bought five from competitors, taking its total number of stores to 95.

New superstores are under construction at Letchworth, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Nelson and Norwich. A large number of stores will be refurbished this year. Next year, stores are planned at Crewe, Thombury (Bradford), Kettering, Wellingborough, Newcas-

tle upon Tyne and Redcar. The company's shares, which have come under pressure in recent weeks, closed 18p higher at 298/p.

Tempus, page 30

Acquisition planned by Cobham

COBHAM, the aerospace engineering group, is ready to spend "several hundred million" pounds on an acquisi-tion (Paul Armstrong writes). Gordon Page, chief execu-tive, said that it reflected the impending rationalisation of the aerospace industry.

Cobbam announced yesterday that its pre-tax profit jumped 2L6 per cent last year to £63.6 million.

Ben Fidler, an analysi with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, described the result as an outstanding set of fig-

A final dividend of 10.6p was declared, taking the year's payout to 15-25p, up

Tempus, page 30

United to unveil \$111m purchase

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

UNTIED News and Media will today announce its largest acquisition for nearly two years the \$111 million (£68.5 million) purchase of Cominuing Medical Education (CME) in the US. CME is the largest for-profit provider of continuing education for American physicians through 160 conferences and seminars a year. It also produces more than 300 multimedia study kits for doctors and has trade magazines such as Psychiatric Times and

Medicine & Behaviour. Lord Hollick, chief executive of United, the ITV and Express newspapers company which is turning itself into a business services group, sees the deal as strategically significant and takes United into a sector worth \$3 billion a year. It will also reduce United's depend-ence on advertising — only II per cent of CME revenues come from advertisements.

Last year the US company had revenues of \$28 million and earnings before interest tax and depreciation of \$7 million. The price of about four times revenues appears high but United believes CME revenues will grow at 20 per cent a year and that the acquisition will be earn-

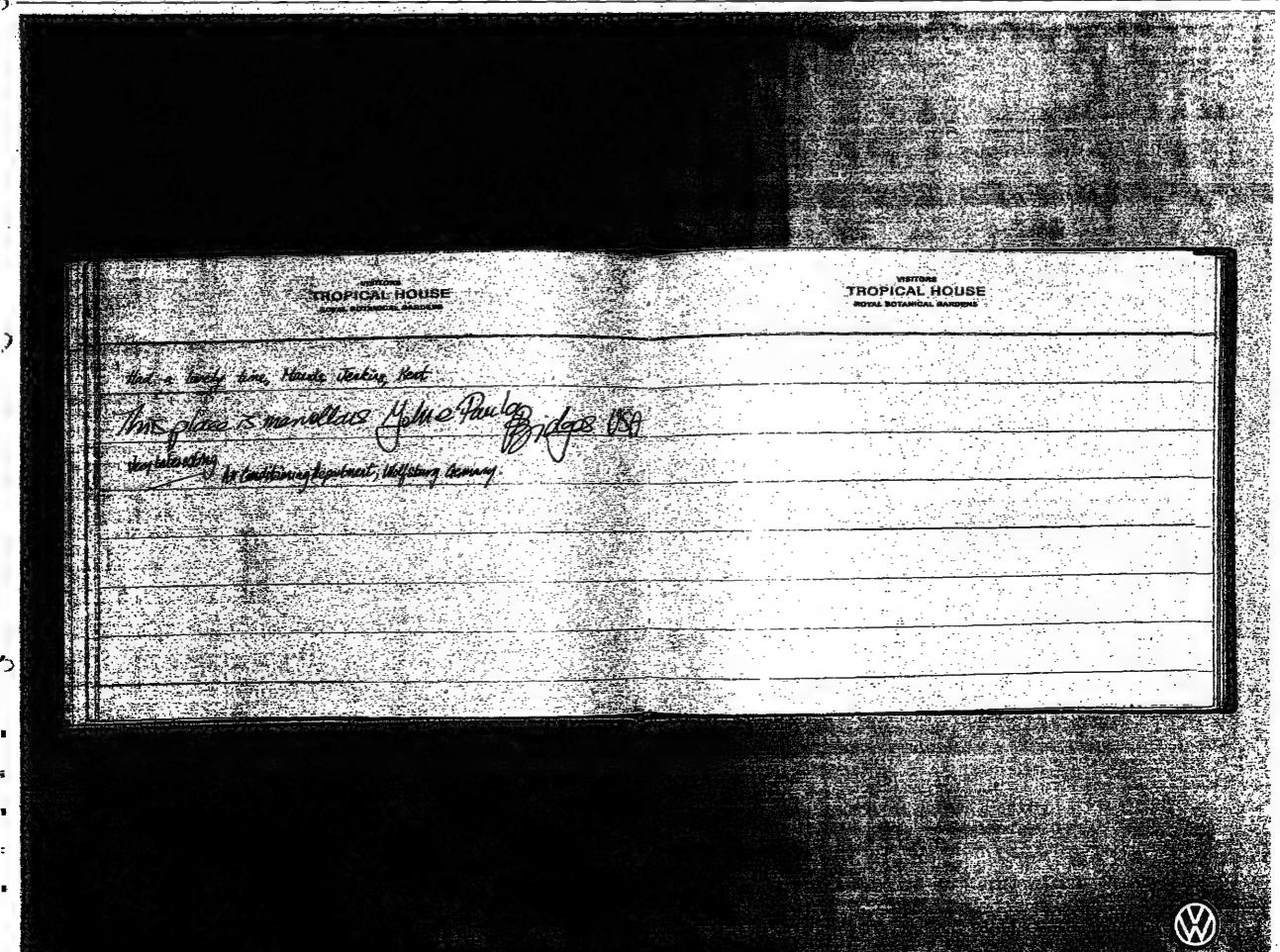
ings enhancing in its first year. CME grants doctors prof-essional credits for completing CME courses or attending its meetings - the sort of credits doctors need to meet the requirements of US states in which they practice, as well as those of the American Medical Association.

Pledge on stadium by Laing

WALES'S new rugby stadi-um will be ready for the inaugural match against South Africa in June but at "substantially" less than full ca-pacity, the project's contrac-tor said (Adam Jones writes).

John Laing, the construc-tion firm, had to make a provision of £26.1 million to cover cost over-runs on the Millennium Stadium. It pledged the venue would be fully ready for

the World Cup in October. Group pre-tax profits were £20.1 million (£32.2 million). Laing ordinary shares rose from 299kp to 311kp.
Diluted earnings per share were 13.8p (24.7p). A dividend of 7p will be paid, making a total of 10.75p (10.5p).



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STOCK MARKET



Oil sector gushes in spite of FTSE retreat

TRADING in two of our biggest blue chip companies ac-counted for more than 8 per cent of total turnover in the

equity market yesterday. Shell rose 15p to 4i2p as 64.36 million shares changed hands, while BP Amoco in-ished 27p higher at £10.28 on turnover of 32.6 million. The combined turnover of shares in the two companies was 96.9 million, helping to lift total volume to 1.16 billion,

The top 100 companies now account for about 82 per cent of the total stock market value and the dealers say the gulf between blue chips and secondliners is getting bigger. Oil shares generally were in

demand ahead of the Opec conference next week which is expected to sanction a cut in oil output of two million barrels per day. Other oil companies to go better included Enterprise Oil, up 274 at 340p. It is still in merger talks with rival Lasmo, 344p dearer at 13844p.

The rest of the equity market was soon nursing sizeable losses after a promising start, but prices closed above their worst levels helped by an open-

The FTSE 100 index finished 26.3 points down at 6.114.3, having been almost 66 points lower at one stage.

investors remained cau-tious, taking full advantage of the Cheltenham Festival ahead of the "double witching" hour in London later today. This includes the expiry of the index option and futures and coincides with "triple witching" in New York.

But there were signs that traders were attempting to unwind their positions early to avoid the volatility that usually greets expiry time. This may have accounted for some of the wilder price movements, including Barclays Bank, down 40p at £17.83, after touching £17.38,

and Zeneca, up 79p at £25.99. EMI Group was one of the best performers among the top 100, rising 2011p to 41811p after a presentation by the new management

PowerGen, which met bro-kers late on Wednesday, hardened 184p to 692p. Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, has raised its recommendation for the shares from "market performer" to "market outperformer".

Smiths Industries came un-



Sir Martin Laing saw John Laing shares increase despite reporting lower profits and a hit on the Millennium Dome

shares traded. Salomon Smith Barney, the US securities house, is convinced that the shares are

overvalued by more than 100p. Hopes of a counterbid sent First Choice Holidays climb-ing 17sp to 178sp. The specula-tors are pinning their hopes on Airtours, down op at 490p, making an offer of 220p a share to block the agreed £1.45 billion

merger with Kuoni Reisen

Holdings, the Swiss package holiday group. First Choice insists that it has not received an approach from Airtours.

Waterfall Holdings firmed 2p to 61!1p after confirming reports in The Times that it wants to talk to rival European Leisure, unchanged at 92%p, about a merger of the two companies, with Waterfall's management taking the

THREADBARE FTSE 350 Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

LIFE seems to be getting tougher in the high street. The latest retail sales numbers made gloomy reading, showing a further decline in sales of clothing.

Retail sales generally in February, a dull month at the best of times in the high street, fell 0.3 per cent. The three-month growth rate, so far, is the lowest since Januarv 1996.

The leading fashion retailers were marked sharply lower. Marks & Spencer led the way with a fall of 13%p

14p to 1871-p. Next 13p to 719p, and Storehouse 2p to

The retail analyst team at BT Alex Brown, the broker, is cautious about the outlook for fashion retailers. But the analysts are ruling out the prospect of profit downgrades for the time be-

ing, at least.
We know that conditions are still not very good, but this confirms it. We will probably wait until the fig-ures come out. We are still in the middle of the results

ead in the combined entity This would scupper Euro pean's recently announced merger with Allied Leisure. Norcros, that takeover favourite, rose 214p to 8144p after a line of 3.65 million shares was

snapped up at the 79p level. HR Owen, the vehicle distributor, climbed 221/2p to 165p in response to profits news and the purchase of 968,627 shares by Nicholas Lancaster. managing director. He now speaks for 4.5 million shares, or 26.5 per cent.

The view looks good these days for John Laing even though the construction group and housebuilder run by Sir Martin Laing, chairman, has taken a hit on the Millennium Dome. Profits were down 60 per cent, but the price rose 114p to 3114p with the "A" shares 12p better at 311%p. The group is confident about the future.

London & Edinburgh Pub-

lishing firmed 14p to 94p after returning to the black last year despite heavy write-offs. The publisher and marketing specialist is confident about prospects and is looking for acquisitions.

Share purchases by the chalrman lifted Ocean Group 12kp to 892kp. Nigel Rich has bought 3,895 shares at 878kp and now owns 21,895.

Rage Software finished IMp firmer at 16%p as some large blocks of shares changed hands. Michael Mason, a dir ector, has bought 150,000 shares at 15kp and now owns 599.125. Another director, Brode, has also Andrew picked up 75,000 at 1412p, taking his holding to 200,000, but Paul Finnegan has sold 154,000 at 14kp. He still holds 6.12 million, or 2.43 per cent.

☐ GILT-EDGED: It was a day of consolidation in the bond market after recent strong gains. The short end sported small gains, reflecting lingering hopes of a cut in bank base rates next month.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished 2p dearer at £117.70 as 27,000 contracts were completed. in shorts, Treasury 7 per

cent 2002 finished 11p higher at £106.91, but at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2021 lost 7p at £148.09.

□ NEW YORK: Shares were higher in early trade, led by gains among financial and semi-

conductor issues. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 23.03 at 9.902.44.

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	Sydney: 2967.7 (-10.1)
	Frankfurt:
	DAXSD13.62 (-63.81)
	Singapore: Stats1466.07 (-4.09)
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Vote of disquiet

SHAREHOLDERS in Chesterfield Properties meet on Monday to vote on a proposal to dispose of about a quarter of the company's assets.

Attention focuses on two things. First, the properties to be sold are slated to change hands at a price below net asset value. Moreover, the market may have moved up since the deal was struck. If the shift has taken place, it widens the sale price discount. Secondly, the properties involved, once disposed of by Chesterfield, are to be managed by companies con-trolled by Robert Maxted. Mr Maxted is currently Chesterfield's chief executive, but will resign to take up the new role if - and only if

 the disposal proposal is approved.
 The taste left is sour. But Chesterfield is an unhappy case with its shares, caught in the small company trap, having consistently underperformed. The stock has traded at a significant discount to net assets for some time. In the circumstances management is absolutely right to seek release of shareholder value. Moreover, while the deal struck leaves something to be desired, if anyone were willing to make a better offer they would surely have shown their hand by now.

With Roger Wingate, the chairman, speaking for about 30 per cent of the shares it is unlikely that the deal will be voted down. But the humpy shareholding could work to independent shareholders' advantage. They can vote against the deal to register their disquiet at the way in which the disposal has been arranged. This will draw the appropriate corporate governance line in the sand, and may even prompt a renegotiation of the sale price. But it is unlikely to wreck the plan altogether.

So vote against.

drawbacks. JRA's move away St James's Place

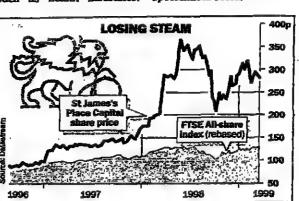
ONCE again Sir Mark Weinberg has demonstrated that he is a step ahead of most of his peers. His decision to change the charging struc-ture on the pension policies sold by J Rothschild Assurance, the main trading divi-sion of St James's Place Capital, is a pragmatic move flow-ing from the political and commercial realities.

The Government wants pensions to be as flexible and transparent as possible so that people are encouraged to save for retirement. As a result it is determined that companies abandon the practice of front-loading pension sav-ings policies with fees. Companies that ignore new Labour's enthusiasm for level charging — levying fees evenly across the savings term — are missing a critical trick. Nevertheless, there are

from front-end loading introduces uncertainty for SJPC's earnings. Will JRA's much admired salesforce be able to sell enough single premium policies to compensate for the decline in profitability of regular premium sales? Will they succeed in selling other, more lucrative lines of business such as health insurance?

The dividend policy does not commend the shares, either. SJPC has a good history of returning surplus capital to shareholders and more could come if the company sells its stake in the "vulture fund" Life Assurance Holding CorBritain

poration. In the meantime, Prudential holds a 28 per cent stake, which excites takeover speculation. Hold,



Wm Morrison

AS SUPERMARKET groups go, Morrisons is one of the smallest. It would like to be a lot bigger, and believes that it is held back from significant expansion by the Govern-ment's tough planning regu-lations. But despite the hostile planning environment and the competition of the likes of Tesco, Asda. Sainsbury's and Safeway. Morrisons has not just survived, it has thrived. Low prices and an innovative service offering has done the trick. Many of the ideas adopted in recent years by the big four super-market chains were pionecred at Morrisons.

It has expanded reasonably fast in the past year by opening new stores and buying some from the Co-op tion that the Government is now paying to the power of the big four supermarkets, Morrisons may hope that it

open more new stores. It is hard to see how this could happen, but anything that keeps the big four in check could well work to the advantage of Morrisons. Anyway, with like-for-like sales rising at about double the sector average, Morrisons is doing impressivly well without new

store openeings.
The shares trade on a rating equivalent to the marketaverage and at a premium to the food retailing sector's. But they should continue to rise in value. Buy.

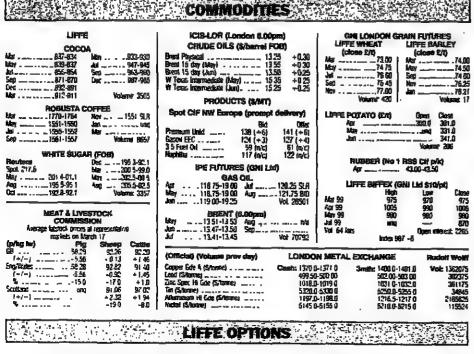
Cobham

WHEN it comes to investor satisfaction. Cobham, the aerospace engineer, gets ticks in most of the right boxes. It won more approval yester-day with a 21.0 per cent rise in profits. The advance was far enough ahead of expecwithout embarrassing ana-

book. It has £735 million of

book. It has £735 million of work lined up and said that a further £100 million of business was all but bagged. It also said it has "several hundred million" pounds to spend on acquisitions while it can maintain capital expenditure and research and development spending. For a gadgetry company, this is vital. The strong result and bright outlook fuelled a 5 per cent jump in Cobham's share price yesterday. This puts it

cent jump in Coonam's soare price yesterday. This puts it on a future earnings multiple of 18 times, which represents a full price, but Cobham is set to enjoy solid, long-term, earnings growth from the next round of orders under its confrom of orders tribus. There are fears that aerospace markets are weakening, but Airbus is seen as being in better shape than Boeing. Cobham also hopes to secure contracts for the Eurolighter by the end of the year. Accumulate.



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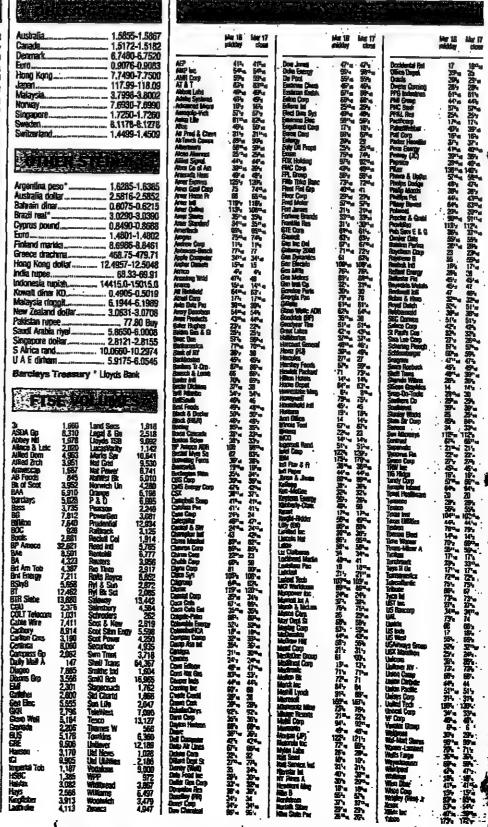
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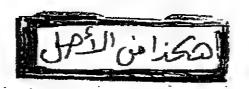
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revolution in union structure has long seemed a contradiction in terms. The movement still struggles to shake off its image of cloth caps and class conflict. Yet a revolution in the way the entire union movement functions is exactly what John Monks outlined in a low-key launch earlier this week. The softly spoken General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress is adamant that unions must streamline and become more efficient if

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they are to prosper into the next century.
Mr Monks's model is unashamedly European. He wants to see the union movement become more like that in The Netherlands, where the Dutch FMV trade union movement is dominated by just three unions based around the manufacturing, service and public sectors.

A union revolution shaped by business

This is in part a specific response to the new environment. Unions fear that gains enjoyed under the new Labour Government could be squandered in a bout of ma-fia-style turf wars. There is also a more fundamental acceptance that the workplace has changed irrevocably. Unions sprung up representing specific trades in the days hen most workers were likely to remain in the same job for life. The legacy is a distinct over-concentration in the dwindling manufacturing sec-tor and a failure effectively to penetrate newly created serv-ice-sector workforces. The TUC wants to redress this im-

balance without the kind of

unseemly infighting between the AEEU and TGWU that has marred the recruitment of the non-TUC Cabin Crew 89. which represents British Air-

Two decades ago such a radical reform plan for one of the pillars of the country's political economy would have quickly become a key political battle-ground. These days, however, union initiatives are largely met by a profound political silence. The Fairness at Work legislation represents the most that Tony Blair is prepared to offer the unions. Even now, with the legislation on its way to Parliament, there have been hints that he may yet backtrack. . The Conservatives are also

THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS

ALASDAIR MURBAY

wary of treading back into the minefield of union relasuccess of the 1980s de-unionisation drive. Although Conservative policy is a long way from becoming fully de-veloped, the thrust

from John Red-

Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, has been to attack the creeping business burden of all Labour's labour market reforms. The aim is to develop a coher-

ready for the next election.

The new union laws undoubtedly form part of this target but Mr Redwood wants to focus on the whole issue of regulation rather than begin a fresh round of union-bashing. The signs are that, while there may be amend-

ments to the Fairness at Work legislation if the Conservatives regain power, there is little chance that the whole framework will be swept away.

sponse to the union plans it must inevitably come from employers. The temptation will be for many businesses to wash their hands of the issue or even indulge in some di-vide and rule tactics, actually encouraging the kind of inter-necine fighting that the TUC

is desperate to avoid. The prospect of a mega-union led by some latter-day Scargill is not particularly appetising to British business. Business may well prefer the current position, where if unions have to be recognised at all, compa-nies can indulge in a union "beauty parade" to select the Yet as the Confederation of

British Industry recognises, the Monks plans provide a chance for business to help to remodel British industrial relations for the next century. Practically speaking, many businesses would prefer simplified union structures because dealing with a plethora of unions within one compaand strategically complex.

More importantly, however, employers have an out-standing opportunity to encourage an even more fundamental overhaul in the philosophy of the union movement. The restructuring of the union movement will inevitably involve a form of natural selec-

best able to effectively represent their members surviving. while those who remain wed-ded to outdated adversarial notions becoming a footnote in union history. By working with unions prepared to accept partnership rather than confrontation and embrace the previously radical notion that companies must maintain their locus on competitiveness and profits, employers can do much to influence the outcome of the debate.

For chunks of the union movement, the idea that employers have a leading role to anathema. Yet some of the more moderate unions, and in particular the AEEU, are quietly encouraging businesses to make their voices heard in the restructuring process. Business should not pass up the opportunity to answer

American evangelist brings Britain the word on the Web

The Cisco kid

says Internet

education is vital for jobs, writes

Chris Ayres

ohn Chambers has been likened to both an arms dealer and an evangelist. As head of Cisco Systems, the \$170 billion (£105 billion) manufacturer of networking equipment — the little black boxes that make the Internet work - he makes a fortune every time a company wages war with a competitor

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that the 49-year-old executive whose personal stake in Cisco is now worth more than half a billion dollars, spends rouch of his time jetting around the world telling whoever will listen that the Internet "will change everything". So far, politicizes and busi-ness leaders have been queu-

Ing up to meet him.

Mr Chambers claims to have met every government leader in Asia - including Jiang Zemin in China — apart from President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea. He also recent ly met Tony Blair in London, and he sits on one of Bill Clinton's trade advisory boards in the US. This week he is in Britain to meet Jack Cunningham. the Cabinet Minister, to dis-

cuss Internet education. With an accent from the Deep South, tasselled broques, and preacher's eyes. Mr Chambers appears to be a JR Ewing for the 21st century. He talks at an almost comic speed, and with an urgency rarely heard from his British counterparts. Indeed, you often feel as though he is trying save you from damnation, rather than convince you that the Internet

will revolutionise business. The message Mr Chambers is delivering this week, how-lver, is not all positive. He will iell Mr Cunningham that Brit-



Medium message: John Chambers says Britain's education system is not yet giving people skills needed for the Internet

ain's education system is not yet giving young people the skills needed to compete in the Internet economy, and that fewer people are now online in Britain than in Germany, Mr Chambers says his belief that education is the equaliser in life" was drummed into him by his parents - both of whom were doctors - and inspired him to spend nine years studying for a law de-gree and then for an MBA.

There are 50,000 iT jobs open here in the UK, and the average IT job, whether it's here or anywhere else in the world, pays 50 to 100 per cent more than the average private sector. joh." Mr Chambers said. "That shows that we are not training people for where the jobs are. We're being brutally blunt with all governments, and saying that education systems have to change, or countries are going to get left behind."

Cisco has already set up networking academies" throughout the US - with some recently opening in the UK — to tackle this problem.

Mr Chambers also has a word of warning for his own industry, which has recently undergone massive consolidation. In January, Lucent Technologies, the former telecoms equipment division of AT&T, bought its US rival Ascend for \$20 billion Several months earlier, Canada's Nortel paid \$9.1 billion for Bay Networks. Both deals were regarded by analysis as necessary for

Lucent and Nortel to keep up with Cisco. However, many have questioned the financial logic of the deals, especially the enormous price paid for Ascend. Siemens, the German electronics group, recently described the deal as "throwing away shareholders' money".

Mr Chambers takes a similarly negative view. He said that most recent deals have been belated, overpriced, and are likely to fail. "Shareholders will look back and say, not only did the acquisition not work, but the price paid for it, in hindsight, was extremely high," he said. "The acquisition prices were probably 50 to 100 per cent higher than what we would have paid."

His judgment of Lucent's

deal is particularly harsh. "I think the mathematical odds are that it will fail," Mr Chambers said. "Look at it in terms of common characteristics; look at it in terms of common vision of how the industry is going to evolve, and the role each of those companies are going to play in that evolution; look at it

in terms of short-term wins.

The most important thing in the short term is to realise that you are acquiring people, not technology or current market share. You must ask yourself if you can keep the people you have acquired. You must also consider long-term strategicadvantage, and the similarity of cultures and chemistry. and finally, for large acquisitions, geographic proximity. According to my estimates, it doesn't work."

Cisco's own acquisition strategy has been on a much smaller scale to Lucent's and Nortel's, with the company holding on to employees by handing out stock. Mr Chambers - who says a big deal is "unlikely", but does not rule one out - said: "We've been the best stock to have in the world for the past ten years, and we've shared it with our employees in a way that no one has ever done before in history. I don't have to explain to any employee at Cisco the relationship between cus-tomer satisfaction and stock

performance." He is particularly fond of buying tiny Silicon Valley start-up companies. "Silicon Valley is the most ex-

citing place in the world," he said. "It doesn't matter what sex you are, what age you are, what your religion is, or who your parents are: if you're good, we love you, and if you' re not, you're on your own."
A resident in the Los Altos

hills above Silicon Valley himself, Mr Chambers spends his spare time downloading music from the Internet on to his electronic piano.

Cisco itself began life as a Silicon Valley start-up in 1996. founded by Len Bosack and Sandy Lerney, a geeky academic couple at Stanford University. While trying to send messages to each other via their computers, they invented "routers" — devices which act like signposts for information travelling across computer networks - and set up a company, Cisco, to develop the technology. Needless to day, routers ended up becoming a central part of the Internet, giving Cisco dominance in a market growing at a ferocious speed.

The couple initially funded the company on credit cards. then brought in venture capitalists. However, the founders and venture capitalists fell out, with Mr Bosack and Ms Lerney leaving Cisco and selling their shares in the company in the early 1990s. Then, the shares were worth only 25 cents. Now, they are worth more than \$106. Mr Bosack is now believed to be studying "extraterrestrial intelligence" while Ms Lerney runs a

cosmetics company.

Mr Chambers joined Cisco in 1991 - having worked at Wang and IBM previously a year after the company floated on the Nasdaq stock exchange in the US.

isco is now Nasdaq's third largest compa-ny, behind Intel and Microsoft. Its shares may trade on a staggering rating of 129 times earnings, but unlike many internet companies, it made a thumping after-tax profit last year of \$1.36 bil-lion, on sales of \$10 billion.

The enormity of the task facing him is clear to Mr Chambers: to maintain Cisco's dominance in a rapidly moving market, with the US Government's anti-trust regulators breathing down his neck. The company has already faced one inquiry into whether it tried to carve up the market for data commumications equipment with Lucent and Nortel — an accu-

sation Mr Chambers denies. "I like my peers, and I enjoy competing, and I think my company will be stronger because of competing ethically and above board," he said. "It means I'll have more market share in five years' time than if we were more aggressive."

Moulton turns Alchemy into pure gold

hey have not discovered a way of turning base metals into gold, but in the past two years the Alchemy Partners have certainly found the secret to turn-

ing a good deal.
The management buyout of Goldsmiths, the chain of up-market jewellers, is the latest in a long line of deals by the venture capitalist firm, which was set up in January 1997 by Jon Moulton, managing partner, and four pariners. They included Martin Bolland, the former chief executive of Lonrho's Princess Metropole Hotel chain, and Eric Walters, with whom Moulton had worked at Schroder Ventures. It was through Schroder Ventures that Moulton and Walters had got to know Gold-smiths, and Jurek Piasecki, its

chairman and chief executive. Eleven years ago it backed an earlier buyout of Goldsmiths from Oriflame. When Moulton moved from Schroders to Apax he also spent many fruitless months working with Piasecki on an attempt to buy the Ernest Jones jewellery chain from the Sig-

net Group. Another deal that is in the pipeline, but appears to be in a fairly parlous state, is the the proposed MBO of Swallow Group's Vaux Breweries. This follows the recent acquisition by Alchemy of Ushers of Trowbridge, and a failed attempt to arrange a buyout of Regal Hotels. Alchemy is keen on hotel deals, and is looking at at least one other management

buyout. Some of Alchemy's attempted retail deals have also fallen to one side in recent months. most notably the proposed ac-quisition of Allied Carpets, and of Watches of Switzerland. And some of the companies that have not gone to Alchemy have been less than flattering about its methods, suggesting that it has tried to rush them into deals that, in their view, would have seriously undervalued the companies in

Last year, Alchemy per-formed the feat, astonishing for such a recent arrival, of becoming the second-largest provider of private equity in the UK. It was behind only 3i and ahead of such established names as NatWest Equity Partners and Electra Fleming. Acquisitions

Acquisitions Monthly, which prepared the league table, noted Moulton's ability to extract value from difficult deals. It also remarked that his relaxed attitude to risk produces the odd poorly performing investment among the many successes". Alchemy targeted a number of turnround situations, including Sunley Turriff, the construction company, and Moore Paragon, a designer and manufacturer of business forms and la-

The total number of deals carried out by Alchemy last year was 21, well behind 3i's 53. But the value was a hefty £234 million, not too far shy of 3i's £309 million.

With so many small quoted companies giving up on an uncaring stock market, Alchemy's skills in returning them safely to the private sector look certain to be called upon frequently for the rest of this year.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BUSINESS LETTER

Experience is key to work with Britain in Europe

From Judith Mayhew

Dear Sir. The City Diary implied on Thursday March 18 that my membership of Britain in Europe was only linked to my role in the Corporation

of London. Whilst that experience and viewpoint may be of value to the task force, it misrepresents entirely the value brought to the party as a result of the stat-ure and profile of my firm

Wilde Sapte. We have played a significant role in Europe, advising major financial institutions on EMU matters. Our partner in charge of our Brussels office James Ashe-Taylor was profiled in "A mission to explain the new currency" in The Times on December 23, 1998.

Furthermore we worked with NatWest and KPMG (also involved with Britain in Business) to produce an EMU guide for business.

Ironically we, and not a Frankfurt law firm, wrote the Euro Planner Fact Book for the German Chambers of Commerce, which they are now using throughout Eu-

Surely this is a fairer portrayal of the experience the Britain in Europe group is availing itself of in inviting a lawyer on to its membership.

Yours faithfully JUDITH MAYHEW, Director of Training, London EC4M 7WS.

King rat

AS WE await the forthcoming Nick Leeson biopic with varying degrees of anticipation, 1 learn of one significant detail that is unlikely to be in the film, which stars Ewan Trainspotting McGregor and Anna Brookside Friel

It is known that one unnamed Hong Kong fund man-ager fingered Leeson four years ago: we have never known who this was. My indepth researches suggest oh, all right, someone has told me - that it was none other than Colin Armstrong, at the time with Jardine Fleming. ly source is reliably close to rlemings itself, which owns half of the business.

This is ironic, because Armstrong was himself at the centre of another scandal at Jardine the next year, the so-called "rat trades" affair that cost the firm a £700,000 fine, £12 million in compensation and its reputation. He has



likely to be the subject of a forthcoming film.

THE level of bonuses at Merrill Lynch seems to be breeding a degree of dissatisfaction. One of the top-rated European telecoms team has been poached by a rival. Simon Carrington is joining Schroders. Other Tumours of top-level changes at the American investment bank are being denied. We shall see.

Bull market

SOME startling news from Guildhall. The forthcoming elections for two sheriffs are going to be as close to a genuine democratic poll as the City has seen for some years now.

Someone has passed me the

unofficial list of four candidates, and it seems even officials at the Corporation of London are conceding that it is an open field and anyone could

The first is Robert Finch, an-

alderman and very much the official candidate. If he wins, he would be only a couple of years off being Lord Mayor. But he is standing against Anthony Bull, a long-time rebel. The other two are Pauline Halliday, a member of the court of common council, and Hugh Harris, once at the Bank of England. Both, 100, are "official" candidates, that is, favoured by Guildhali: But with four people stand-



ing, there is every chance that the vote among liverymen will be split, so allowing in Bull. who has attracted sympathy because of the way he has been treated in the past. If he wins. there is little to stop him being Lord Mayor in due course, an outturn that would deeply upset the powers that be.

COLIN CHILD, finance director of National Express, was startled to run into a youth wearing a T-shirt featuring the company's new logo, a sort of stylised NX. National Exess may be fashionable at the moment, having inspired a hit pop single, but the new logo hadn'i even been an-

Surprise turned to concern when he discovered that the Tshirt, far from celebrating his coaches and trains, was from Next, which has patented the NX logo for the past seven years. National Express is only using the logo on its letter-heads, but it might be best not to tip off Next anyway. So don't tell anyone I told you.

Cashing in

LAST week I wrote of the visit to Britain of King Mswati III of Swaziland. After visiting the City, he attended a seminar of British firms keen to invest in

his country.

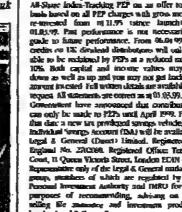
I now learn that the King has used the trip to take swift action to stamp out the growing problem in his homeland of counterfeit bank notes. In the past fortnight alone police have seized notes worth £500,000.

King Mswati visited the Bas-ingstoke offices of De La Rue on Thursday and immediately hired the firm to produce notes in future, replacing a German compensor which has had the job for several decades.

I suppose that if you are a king you can do that sort of thing quite quickly. Incidentally, when I wrote of his visit to the City we ran a picture of the wrong king. Here is the cor-

MARTIN WALLER city diary@the-times.co.uk





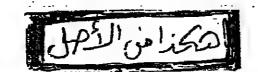
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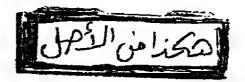
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Mansfield issues warning

Shares of Mansfield Brewery closed 23p lower at 210p after the brewer and pub operator gave warning that full-year profits would be below market expectations. HSBC Securities cut its forecast for the year to March 27 from £22.4 mil-

lion to £21 million. A 4.5 per cent decline in like-for-like sales in its managed pub estate and falling beer sales were blamed. Mansfield is taking a £1.9 million excep-tional charge against the cost of a restructuring aimed at saving £1.6 million in annual costs.

Nedlloyd sale

Nedloyd, the Dutch shipping and transport group, has raised 1.175 billion guilders (£360 million) through the sale of its European transport and distribution operations to Deutsche Post Nedlloyd's sole re-maining business is a 50 per cent stake in the P&O Nedlloyd joint venture with Britain's P&O.

Centre refocus

Town Centre Securities, the property investment and development company, said revenues in the second half would be affected by the refocusing of its property port-folio. In the first half pretax profits rose to £7.1 million from £5.9 million, helped by a £1.9 million surplus from disposals. The in-terim dividend rises to L3p a share from L27p.

HR Owen ahead

Nick Lancaster, managing director of HR Owen, the upmarket car dealer, has acquired 968,000 shares in the company for £1.38 mil-lion, lifting his stake above 26 per cent. Yesterday the company reported a 46 per cent rise to pre-tax profits to £6 million in 1998. A 5p final dividend makes a total of 10p, up 25 per cent.

Fisher falls

James Fisher, the shipping and port services company. suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £8.78 million to £3.85 million in 1998 af-ter charging £2.86 million against the closure of operations at the port of New haven. The total dividend rises to 3.75p a share from 3.2p, with a final 2.35p.

Churchill slides

Shares of Churchill China fell 9½p to 86p after the tableware manufacturer said the first half of 1999 was likely to see a further deterioration in profitability. The company reported 1998 pre-tax profits of £1.47 million, down from £6.1 million. There is no final dividend, leaving the total dividend at just 3p (14.3p).

National Express plan aims to speed franchise renewal

NATIONAL EXPRESS, Britain's largest train operator, is to try for an early extension of its five rail franchises by offer-ing to link the level of subsidies it receives with performance.

Phil White, chief executive, will tell John Prescott, the Dep-uty Prime Minister, that he is also prepared to share its revenues with Railtrack rather than pay fixed charges to the

track operator.
The company intends to sumbit its proposals in the next few months - effectively giving Mr Prescott a chance to remould the financial system currently governing the rail network.

Mr White said: "We will have finished our proposals in the next few months. Linking subsidy to performance would not worry me at all — we perform well, and have nothing to fear."

Mr Prescott is known to be dissatisfied with the current fixed subsidy system which delivers heavy state payouts' regardless of how many trains are run on time. He has made it known that the Government intends to grant its first franchise extensions this year, and would like to reduce the number of companies that run the 25 networks.

The five National Express networks cover 3.910 miles out of the entire 15,200-mile train network. Three of its franchises expire by 2004 and two in

The company yesterday re-



ported that its rail division lifted underlying profits by 32 per cent over 1998, to £25.9 million. Group pre-tax profits came in at £97 million (£54.8

The core National Express coach division saw profits decline slightly to £11.6 million (£11.9 million) which it blames

partly on Easter travel being affected by bad weather.

Mr White said the company's overseas expansion strategy will be focused on Australia and the US. It has been shortlisted for four of Melbourne's five privatised train and tram networks beating opposition from its

UK rivals Stagecoach and FirstGroup.
In the US, it said it is in ad-

vanced talks with "a number" of small school bus companies. Mr White said: "We have got to the due diligence stage. We need to get some critical mass in the school bus market around a few states and build from there."

The UK bus division increased underlying profits by 12 per cent to £45.6 million. It has set aside about £30 million which it could spend helping local councils with road improvements and building bus lanes. Earnings were 54.8p (45.1p) a share. The total dividend rises

to lop (13.5p) with a final 11.3p.

Fall in price of oil forces Borneo to scrap payout

DEPRESSED oil prices have forced British-Borneo Oil and Gas to scrap its final dividend. Yesterday the company reported a net loss of £82 million for 1998, compared with a profit of £14 million for the previous 12 months, as a result of provisions and write-offs precipitated by the sharp fall in

the price of crude, Total exceptional charges were £62.9 million, which in-cluded a writedown of £48.9 million against the impairment of fixed assets and capitalised goodwill and a £14 million provision after the abandonment of two North Sea oilfields.

Last year's average oil price of \$13.34 a barrel was a 22-year low, and 23 per cent below the 1997 average. The effect of low oil prices and production delays at the Morpeth field in the Gulf of Mexico was to reduce cashflow and substantially increase year-end borrowings.

The company has identified assets for disposal as it seeks to reduce debts, which at the year end were £377.4 million

(E55.4 million). The merger with Hardy Oil & Gas, a rival exploration and production company, was completed last October and has achieved annualised cost savings of £8 million.

Alan Gaynor, chief executive, said it was too early to say if oil prices were now off their lows, but said he would be surprised if Brent crude was not back in the \$15 to \$20 a barrel

range within 12 to 18 months. He said: "The key thing is we're running the business on a basis where it is robust, and indeed increasingly robust, at \$10, just to make sure we're OK should we have a pro-longed period of low oil price." British-Borneo's net produc-

tion is set to increase fivefold to some 100,000 barrels of oi equivalent per day (boepd) over the next 18 months. Output climbed to 20,274 boepd last year from 14,174 boepd in 1997. Mr Gaynor said that the Morpeth field, which incurred substantial cost overruns before entering production in October, is now set to reach peak production, about 35,000 bar-

rels per day, next month. In the absence of a final dividend the total dividend falls to lp a share from 2.75p. British-Borneo shares fell 2p to 134p yesterday, against a 12-month high of 399p.

☐ Edinburgh Oil & Gas reported a 1998 loss of £780,000 before tax, compared with a profit of £509,000 in 1997. The annual dividend is held at 0.3p a share.

Deutsche Bank raises £2bn to

than expected. When the \$10:1. billion (£6 billion) Bankers Trust deal was announced last vear, Deutsche Bank said it would need to raise about DM4 billion. Yesterday Rolf Breuer, Deut-

take full advantage of opportunities to penetrate the European market.

Despite lawsuits by Holocaust victims, Herr Breuer said yesterday that he expects Deutsche Bank's acquisition of Bankers Trust to be completed by June. -

nounced that net profits more than trebled to DM3.38 billion from DML02 billion in 1997.

per cent stake in Daimler-Chrysler.

DM3.47 billion.

fund takeover

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

DEUTSCHE BANK, Germany's largest commercial bank, is raising DM6 billion (£2 bill-ion), to help to fund its takeover of Bankers Trust in America... The cash call is much higher.

sche Bank chairman, said the larger than expected capital increase was also necessary to

Deutsche Bank is one of several German companies facing class action suits in the US filed by Holocaust survivors. accusing them of profiting from slave labour or the Nazi expropriation of Jewish assets. The lawsuits could delay regulatory approval of the takeover. Deutsche Bank also an-

Earnings were boosted by extraordinary gains from a special bonus dividend paid out by DaimlerChrysler last year. Deutsche Bank has a 12

Financial crises in Russia, South-East Asia and Latin America pushed trading profits down nearly 4 per cent to

Dialog admits to slow progress of integration

INVESTORS in Dialog Corp-oration, Dan Wagner's online information business formerly known as MAID, breathed a. sigh of relief as the company's full-year results did not throw up any new warnings about the company's progress. This, and market curiosity

over Mr Wagner's plans for the group's fledgeling Internet software and e-commerce businesses saw the shares put on 11 per cent yesterday. The company yesterday ad-

mitted that the integration of its £265 million acquisition in 1997 of Knight Ridder Informa-

tion has been slower than it had hoped, while revenues, which it said would be up 10 per cent, were in fact flat.

Servicing the cost of the KRI acquisition and the ensuing debt mountain, standing at £157 million at year end was the "key objective" of the board. In addition to paying interest charges, the company has debt repayments totalling £13.5 million this year that will fall due from May. Mr Wagner said that the company may seek to reschedule the debt.

There has been speculation that the Internet and e-commerce businesses may be floated. However, Mr Wagner and that the company would rather bring in investing partners or raise money through licensing agreements.

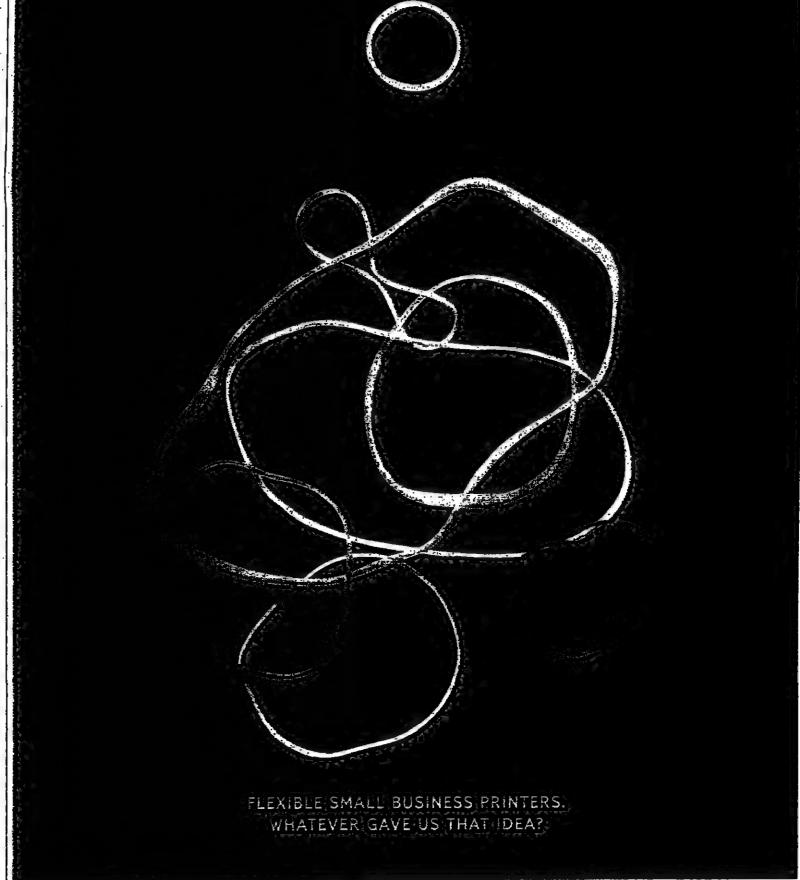
Revenues in 1998, skewed by a first full-year inclusion of KRI, came in at £170 million producing pre-tax profits of £5.5 million after exceptional costs of £2.8 million. Earnings per share were 2.9p against losses per share of 20.5p in 1997. The shares, which fell as low as 47p, were up 9½p to 94½p yesterday. Last summer they peaked at 2361/sp.

McAlpine promise on growth

ALFRED MCALPINE yesterday promised that better land purchasing will be key to achieving targets of earnings increases of at least 15 per cent a year for the next three years

(Adam Jones writes). Shares of the housebuilding and construction group ticked up from 167p to 174p on the

news of the pledge.
For 1998, profits before tax and exceptionals rose 41 per cent to £34 million on turnover up 9 per cent at £720 million. The operating profit margin from private housing rose from 8.7 per cent to 10.2 per cent. House reservations are currently up 14 per cent on 1998. A dividend of 4.8p per share will be paid, making a total of 8p (7.5p) for the year.





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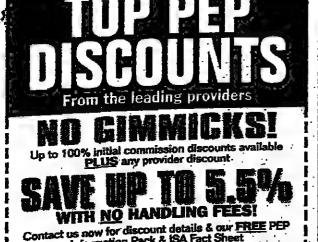


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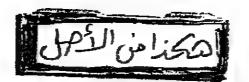


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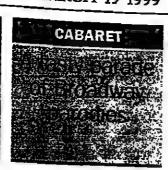
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MARCH 19 1991



THE





as the country that gave a grateful world such earthy figures as Mad Max, Dame Edna Everage, Crocodile Dundee and Germaine Greer now turned into a land of prudes? Can the nation of sun, surf, sex and sheep suddenly have succumbed to sad suburban prissiness? So it seems. For Australia appears to be on the verge of banning Lolita, the recent film version of Nabokov's novel by the British director Adri-

an Lyne - even though its censor has approved the movie. What's more, the Prime Minister himself, John Howard, has led the charge of the repressives against what they describe as a "sick and bizarre portrayal of paedophilia". Howard seems to be unaware that the film, starring Jeremy Irons in his customary world-weary dissolute mode, has aiready been screened in 19 countries (including Britain and America) without inciting any noticeable break-downs in public order or morality. Or perhaps he believes that Aussies have such chaste sensibilities.

And now, the Prim Minister of Australia

But maybe the real reason for simple political calculation - as his opponents claim. His Government's fragile majority largely de-pends on the goodwill of one crusty independent senator, Brian Harradine, and Harradine is a noted campaigner in the Mary Whitehouse mould, tireless in his tirades against media "smut" wherever he imagines it to be lurking. Howard. needs Harradine's support, and so Harradine's fixations have become Howard's as well. Thus are the great issues of artistic freedom decided in one of the world's most stri-

dently self-righteous democracies. Of course, Howard's opposition to Lolita provokes fury in liberal Australia. The Office of Film and Literature Classification, defending its "RIS" certificate for Lolita,

poor lambs, that they need more even cites experts from the chilling-protection than people elsewhere. In named Australian Institute of Criminology to support its view Howard's threat to ban Lolita is that Lolita is a "serious artistic work" that "does not offend against standards accepted by rea-sonable adults (as opposed to Prime Ministers, presumably). Now the Aussie press is hurling

itself into the debate, though its contributions don't always clarify the central issues. The Canberra Times, for instance, applauds Howard's censorial instincts, but says he is banning the wrong things. Instead of attacking the "sexual naughtiness" of Lolica, the paper says, he should be combating "Hollywood's unchecked bom-bardment of this sweet little country with foreign, cynical, unAustralian, psychosis-inducing, massacreinciting products. Phew. Or as they say in Canberra, strewth. I wish I could come to Austral-



RICHARD MORRISON

ia's aid, in this hour of national crisis, by offering my own views on Lolita, but I can't. When I went to see the film — out of a purely pro-fessional desire to be corrupted beyond redemption, you understand — I am afraid I fell asleep during

what older film critics call "the first

reel". You may surmise three reasons for that: a) I had sipped enthusiastically from a range of fine wines earlier in the evening; b) I am so far advanced beyond normal depravity that the film made no impression on my jaded senses; c) it is a crashingly boring adaptation of a grossly overrated book.

Alas, all three are true. Australians should really find something better to do with their time than

huffing and puffing over this piffling effort. No wonder they have started to lose at cricket. If they carry on trying to reinstate the pious and hypocritical morality of the Victorian era, they will soon be ap-plying to rejoin the British Empire.

eanwhile in America a different sort of cultural clash is exciting the chattering classes. A Princeton University music professor is suing a rock

band for playing so loudly that they have allegedly damaged his hearing. Peter Jeffrey is an expert in the somewhat more restrained musical ambience of Gregorian chant, and had never been to a rock concert before a fateful night two years ago when he stepped inside a Smashing Pumpkins gig in New Haven for just 20 minutes, ap-

parently to look for his son. Being on the Des O'Connor side of 40, he had even taken the precaution of inserting earplugs. Even so, he claims that the decibels being pumped out by the all-too-smashing Pumpkins caused hearing loss in his left ear, buzzing in both ears, and "sleep deprivation". He is now suing the group for exceeding a safe decibel level that they "knew or should have known" about ! fear that he may have an inflated opinion of the scientific expertise to

since this is America, he is also su-ing the city of New Haven, the hall's owners, the band's record label (Virgin), the two supporting bands, and even the company that made the earplugs. The only sur-prise is that he isn't suing his son for not waiting in the car park. Should he win, of course, the

floodgates will open, If just 20 minutes of exposure to the pounding of a rock band in full pelt can wreak such havoc on a pair of plugged-up ears, what damage has been done to the naked lug oles of the millions who regularly attend rock venues? Will the music business soon have to follow the tobacco industry's reluctant example, and set aside billions of pounds to settle mass lawsuits from those who claim they "didn't know" how dangerous its pleasures were?

It's quite a thought, isn't it? So the next time you pop into the Brixton Academy for a spot of aggravated headbanging, do remember to take your lawyer and doctor along as well. All three of you might find be expected from a rock band. But the show unexpectedly rewarding.

Marsha mellow



Together again: Marsha Mason teams up in London with her ex-husband Neil Simon and co-star Richard Dreyfuss

ith the Edinburgh Festival's Perrier Award having been several shades of green in recent years (Dylan Moran and Tommy Tiernan take a bow), the visibility of Irish comedians in the UK has never been higher.

Accordingly, the live come-dy circuit in Ireland is expanding to meet the demand. Last year saw the opening of Dublin's Laughter Lounge, and now comes the inaugural Guinness Sit-Down, Stand-Up Cornedy Festival (organised by the Corduray Camedy Club), which is currently running in Dublin's Vicar St. a sumptuous new venue that boasts a capacity of 600 with the seats in.

Although primarily a music venue, Vicar St is an excellent place to view stand-up comedy, its well-spaced rables and table service lending a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

The festival kicked off on St Patrick's Night with Kevin McAleer, one of Irish comedy's best loved comedic sons. who used the occasion to re-launch his stand-up career af-

Troubles to bear

COMEDY Kevin McAleer Dublin

ter a long spell in television studios. Most of the early part of the set consisted of new material that the Tyrone comedian is planning to take to this year's Edinburgh Festival. At his best, as with his routine on vegetarianism, McAleer seems like the best comedian in Ireland, his soft-spoken northern brogue masking a hard-hitting invective on socially sanctioned violence. His child-like delivery conceals subject-mat-

ter that is deadly serious. Where to place him? When he takes off on surreal flights of fancy, McAleer seems like the true heir to Flann O'Brien; when he indulges his passion for word-play and language manipulation, the spirit of

Joyce seems to hover over him. But things went awry when he misjudged a politically sensitive gag on the Troubles -- a subject McAleer had hitherto done well on.

Now on the back foot, McAleer reverted to tried and tested material about his childhood in Tyrone, recounting the same madcap stories of rural psychedelia with which he made his name. All fine and dandy, but McAleer should be looking to sweep the ball forward, not pass it back to the

NICK KELLY

from the mid-Seventies Marsha Mason

was a major Hollywood name, garnering four Oscar nominations for best actress within eight years. But youth is what the Hollywood also marks a

reunion, says

Matt Wolf

who regularly gets screen work. Like Streep, Mason began from cancer three months earin the theatre: unlike Streep, she has chosen to return there, lier of his first wife, Joan. Mason's arrival in his life ultiregularly appearing off Broadmately fed Simon's popular way in recent years. And this (and semi-sutobiographical) month she makes her London play Chapter Two, as well as stage debut in The Prisoner of its subsequent film version. Second Avenue, and the Amerwhich — no surprise — starred ican comedy marks a reunion Mason.

less and less each year." A

of sorts: her co-star is Richard Dreyfuss, Mason's Oscar-win-The couple were together for ning colleague from The Good-bye Girl 22 years ago, and the eight years, and Mason looks back on that period as "a two-1971 play was written by Ma-son's ex-husband, Neil Simon. edged sword, at least in terms of the world we were in. A lot of people thought of me only doing Neil's material, and consequently they didn't always consider me for certain things. We have always had a very strong professional relationship, so that part is really kind of nice." says Mason. "We both have a great deal of affec-I might have been right for. tion for one another." Mason had already complet-And the commitment to the marriage precluded me going away for long periods of time."

ed her career-making film per-formance, playing a hooker with an illegitimate son in Cin-derella Liberty, when she and Nor was she prepared for her burgeoning fame. "I was basically very intimidated by what I had achieved. In retro-Simon met during auditions for his 1973 Broadway play. The Good Doctor. "We started rehearsals October 3 and were. spect, it's one of my great regrets that I didn't enjoy myself more. I was much, much more into struggle than I was into success." Once the relationmarried on October 25," Mason recalls of their swift courtship with Simon ended, jobs ship. "It all got crunched into a began to dry up. Says Mason: The 1980s were a very rough very intense period." Intensifying matters further time: I did work, but I worked

was the fact that Simon was still coping with the death

studios now want, and Meryl Streep is virtually the only ac-

tress of Mason's generation

THEATRE: failed TV series, Sibs, created by James L. Brooks (As Good As It Gets), was followed by Marsha Mason's various forgettable films, and Mason became alarmed. West End debut "I began to feel very scared

that I was out of tune, that maybe I didn't understand the milieu or the media: It was the first time that I began to doubt practically everything." What got the actress through it? Her move away from the ceaselessly competitive New York-LA axis to Abiquiu, New Mexico. where she grows medicinal herbs on a 250-acre farm and races a Mazda, having developed a passion for the latter from Paul Newman.

rofessionally, she has found a home of sorts in independent films, the occasional TV appearance, and the realisation that the stage can provide ma-terial in a way that - once you reach a certain age .- TV and

the cinema cannot.

"I can pretty much go any-where to do what I want to do. At least the parts I can go for on stage are pretty exciting."
Whatever else happens, Mason will be able to say that she played London. "You find yourself thinking, "What if you only have a certain amount of time to be an actor?" At least I'll be able to sit in my rocking chair and share stories about when I played the West End. Every actor in the world

● The Prisoner of Second Avenue previews from next Tuesday and opens on March 30 at the Theatre Royal Huymarket (0171-930 8800)

would like to do that."

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Micheal O'Suilleabhain

Brian Kennedy and Mairead Ní Mhaonaigh

Tommy Makem, Davy Hammond, Arty McGlynn, Jean Ritchie
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CABARET

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Jermyn Street

present and even future

thorny with internal rhymes.

Nonetheless, enjoyment is obviously enhanced if one has

actually sat and mourned the

banality of the words in Miss

Saigon, here exposed as the

Alessandrini's show, regu-

fatuous trivia they are.

LONDON DAS LIED VON DER ERDE. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra resu ribya i haliamulic Crid asad resultas its series Mahler — The Speciacle. Gluseppe Sinopoli conducts Mahler's great "song symphony" prefaced by the Adagio from Symphony No 10. Albert Hall (0171-589 8212), Sunday, 7.30pm.

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

A LOVELY SUNDAY FOR CREVE COEUR: Late Tennessee Wilferns play where four thirtysomething women do and don't want to go for a lakeside picnic. Jenny Sealey directs or Orașio Thumes Driii Hall (0171-637 8270). Opens

JERUSALEM QUARTET: Fast acquir ing an international reputation this young, prize-winning foursome visits the Wigmore with a programme of Haydn, Shostakovich and Beethoven. oore Hall (0171-935 2141). prow., 7.30pm. [5]

SNAKE: Interesting-sounding play by Rona Murro, snaking round the experiences of the people whose lives interconnect along the Finchley Road. Germma Bodhietz directs. Hampetead Theatre (D171-722 9301). © Opens lonight, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE

IGHAM: The 1997 Cardiff Singer of the World, Guang Yang, and the winner of the Nordic Solo Blennate in 1991, clarinetist Mertin Fröst, join the Philhamonia Orchestr for a concert of classical showpiece



Sinopoli conducts Mahler at the Albert Hall

WATFORD: Husband, wife, son, and plano teacher intervesive in The Late Middle Classes, Simon Gray's new dark comedy. Harold Pinter directs Harnet Walter and Angela Pleasence Palace (01923 225671). (§) Previews from tonight, 8pm,

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theetre showing in London

House full, returns only ill Some seats available

Seats at all prices

III THE COLLEIEN BAWN: Dubin's Abbey Theatre brings Conali Morrison's production of a once termous Dion Bouctauit play: love and intigue across the classes in 19th-century tretand.

Lyttetton (0171-452 3000). (§)

☐ FORBIDDEN BROADWAY: A second by by New York's long-running intimate natus (showbiz jokes, mostly) to adapt for London gutlienose. See review, right. Jermyn Street Theatre (0171-287

LOW FLYING ARCRAFT: Set in a indure transformed by the vast city of Heathrow four ordinary people by to cope. Dominic Hill directs new Jane Coles play. Orange Tree (0181-840 3633).

☐ ANIMAL CRACKERS: Ben Keaton, Joe Alessi and Toby Sedgwick play the three maniacs in stage version of the Manx Brothers

movie. First seen at Manchester's Royal Exchange. Lyric (0171-494 5045).

HAMLET: Rupert Wickham plays the hero in Christopher Geetan's production, opening this relaunched tre. anwich (097,0-840 1111). 🛭

☐ TRUST: Painck O'Kane plays a Beltast Mr Fixit whose skills disastroutal his own lamily. Mick Gordon directs new Gary Michell drama. Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

S. MACBETH: Flutus Sewell and Sally Denter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's reco-brushes production Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041). SHOCKHEADED PETER: The

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

ARLINGTON ROAD (15): Nerve-streeding thriller with a magnificent partnerid professor wito thinks his neighbour, Tirz Robbins, is hatching a terrorist conspiracy. Mark Petington dispute.

WAKING NED (PG): It's Lobery Galorel for a small village in this skettly high lable about a corpse in charge of a winning inthery licket. With lan illuminan and David Kelly. Kirk Jones directs

SELI, CONTRE TOUS & STAND ALONE) (16): Brusi, tiomach-chuming voyage through a French bucher's life. Philippen Nahon puts in a monumental performance in Gaspar Noe's gressly, nihitissio

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15): Will Ferrell and Chris Kattan, aids the Butabi brothers, are routinely kneed in the grain by girls with big cleavages. Awful nightclub cornedy

SOUTHPAW (15): Gripping documentary about Ireland's first traveller boxing champ, Francis

Barreti, who graduated from a caravan site to the Atlanta Olympics. Liem McGrath directs. CURRENT

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams stars in this abourd medical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter. Director Tom Stadyac extracts an obscene amount of sentiment with little areasthetic.

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Ingenicus spoul of American lemity values. Two dystunctional 1980s teanagers get aucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels, and

BBLOVED (15): Oprah Wintrey is powerful as a runaway stave haunte by pottergelsts, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme's overlong Bim Bals, however, to get inside the festering heart of Toni Morrison's Pulitzer Prize winner.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Buildingson romantic blockbuster with Torn Hanies and Mog Ryan who sail in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

Call me Madam Saigon



Losing their blues in Chicago: Alistair Robins, Sophie-Louise Dann and Mark O'Malley in Gerard Alessandrini's tasty parade of musical parodies

"Give them the old saucy-Fosse," burlesques the chore-ography of *Chicago*, hands pawing, bowler hat tipped over the brow, and verses that

larly updated, has been runpoint the mockery.

The stage is wide but shalning for 17 years, and his usulow. Paul Knight sits at the pial technique is to twiddle a lyric to make it comment upon a ano to one side and all the enmusical's faults, absurdity or trances bar one are made from characteristic style. Thus Sothe other, the exception being the arrival of "Ethel Merphie-Louise Dann dons a Ute Lemper blonde wig and, with man", pushing through the au-

dience and corneraking her exasperation at the frail voices of today. Christine Pedi, graduate of several Forbidden Broadway companies, does a full-spirited job with this sacred moaster of the American stage, and the number she sings with Alistair Robins demonstrates another of Alessandrini's tricks. There is no logical reason why Robins,

wig and radio-controlled through his pants, should sing a song from Call Me Madam, but when he bleats "I keep singing, though my voice is air against Pedi's roar of "We don't need amplifying!" a witty comment on theatrical decadence is being made.

The numbers vary in quality and relevance. Those featuring Carol Channing, Elaine Stritch and Julie Andrews re-

here is more than may

must have been around a long time. The Les Misérables jokes surfaced in the last London show but no matter: glum revolutionaries shuffling around on an imaginary revolve still look deliciously absurd, and all lovers of rhyme will relish the pairing of Les Misérables with Hedda Gabler.

veal amusing touches but

The neatest number is the Sondheim parody Into The

Words - Pedi as Little Rec-Riding Hood, Mark O'Malley as Sweeney Todd - and the most ferocious is surely Pedis skewering of Liza Minnels in full gabble. London audiences may not have New York's insatiable appetite for morsels of showbiz but there's enough on the menu here to make a tasty enough meal.

JEREMY KINGSTON

with Behold the monster

Polypheme", as what chorus

wouldn't, and more or less coped with the conductor's

Animal magnetism

f one were looking for a single link in the chain joining Benjamin Britten and today's prodigy. Thomas Ades, it would have to be Oliver Knussen. The Aldeburgh connection apart, what these three composers have in common is technical virtuosity of the highest order and an immediacy of communication that springs from the brilliance of their handling of materials.

Knussen's double bill of one-act fantasy operas from the Eighties, Higglety Pigglety Popt and Where the Wild Are (both based on books of Maurice Sendak). demonstrates that accomplishment and communicability at every turn: round every corner hurks a musical inspiration that brings a chuckle or perfectly captures the imaginative

world of the child. Allusions to Britten in these works (an opera within an opera in Higglety, the sea inter-ludes in Wild Things) are

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CONCERTS Oliver Knussen Oueen Elizatesh Hall

doubtless intentional, though Julian Anderson's probing notes for the concert performances at the QEH on Wednesday night under the composer's own baton traced their ancestry back through Janácek. Ravel and Stravinsky to Mussorgsky and Humperdinck.

Knussen's achievement, like that of the best of his exemplars, is to create a child's fantasy world with adult sophistication but without condescension. Thus the descent to the cellar where the Lion resides in Higglety elicits growling trombones, rolling timpani and agitated double basses, while the roaring Lion (Stephen Richardson) is at once fearsome and amusing.

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THE OPERA

As the Sealyham Terrier, Jennie, at the centre of the story, Cynthia Buchan gained her Faustian experience endearingly, while Lisa Saffer took the stratospheric coloratura soprano roles (Baby, Potted Plant and Mother Goose) with

dazzling facility.
David Wilson-Johnson was
a splendidly sleazy Pig-inSandwich-Boards, as well as the low voice of the Ash Tree. Completing a fine cast were Christopher Gillett as the high voice of the Ash Tree and the Cat-Milkman, with Rosemary Hardy as the darkournate and Baby's Mother.

The London Sinfonietta, as directed by Knussen, delivered the score with appropriate virtuosity: wheezy vacuum cleaner, animals' yawns, the whole magical fantasy world all conjured with wit, affection and imagination.

BARRY MILLINGTON

immediately meet the eye in Handel's "little opera": how could there not be when the libretto has input from Alexander Pope, John Gay and John Hughes (for whose biography Dr Johnson coined the infamous phrase exotick and irrational entertainment") - not to mention

The genealogy of the amorous giant Polyphemus ranges from Apulcius's Golden Ass through to King Kong. there are some saucy images - and a few eyebrow-raising double entendres - in the text for this tale of the sea-nymph whose grief at the murder of her droopy shepherd lover is somewhat perfunctory, and whose transformation of himinto a disembodied stream forever roving through her plains is surely every liberated woman's dream. An innocent little pastoral Acis is not. Not that too much of this

came across in Wednesday's slightly "churchy" performance by the City of London Choir and the Hanover Band. single phrase he wrote. The chorus sprang to life The playing was lively: nim-

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ble string articulation, oboes quacking away like ducks on the wing (I mean that as a compliment) and sweetly chirping recorders. But the briskness of Hilary Davan

Wetton's conducting was compromised by all-too-predictable ritenutos, fatal pauses between numbers that destroyed any sense of dramatic flow, and a certain "chug-along" approach; repeated notes in Handel need thinking about, and shaping, as indeed does every

breakneck speed for "Happy we" - does happiness real have to be so frenetic? Mark Wilde in strong firm voice, underplayed the droopiness of Acis and indeed sounded as if he really meant what he was singing would that he had bitten some other members of the cast. Jeni Bern's Galatea, sweet enough of tone, could make much more of the words, and Ivan Sharpe took Damon's role as killjoy rather too literally — there is more to him than that: You need some divine conflation of Paul Robeson, Bryn

Terfel and Hans Hotter not to be upstaged by Polyphemus's. choral introduction, which Andrew Mayor has no pretensions to being, his baritone too light and polite for the monster's amorous outpourings. It is always good to hear this lovely piece, but a bit more of the raised eyebrow would be nice next time.

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POP ALBUMS

Elton, Tim and Aida

ARTS

POP OPINION Heroin dopes

Sound and fury signify nothing

NEW POP ALBUMS: There must be bigger things that

anger Skunk Anansie than duff TV, says David Sinclair

SKUNK ANANSIE

Post Orgasmic Chill (Virgin CDV2881 £14.99) NOT a very inviting title, it must be said, combining the in-elegant ring of social-services jargon with a nagging sense of anticlimax. But then the cuphonious use of language has never been high on the list of Skunk Anansie's priorities when forging their uncompromising amalgam of heavy met-al and black feminist rage.

I've been there and your frigid wit was far too greasy/ Am't so slick and it am't so damn profound," lead singer Skin croaks, just before the gui-tars go into Gatting-gun mode for the shouty punk chorus of And This is Nothing that I Thought I Had.

To give them their due, it sounds as if the band have put considerable effort into their third album, and several numbers, including Tracy's Flaw and Lately, boast strong melodies and a more reflective tone. than much of their previous work. But no matter how thoughtfully they start off, songs such as Good Things Don't Always Come to You and Secretly sound unnecessarily shrill and bad-tempered by the end. And when Skin starts railing against the viewing options on her hotel television as if this were an issue of urgent popular concern, you get the impression of an artist who is suffering a creeping sense of detachment from any meaningful reality.

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VARIOUS ARTISTS Tim Rice's Aida ----(Rocket/Mercury) 524 651 £14.99) **ELTON JOHN and Tim Rice** approach the dauming pros-

pect of rewriting the story of Aida in a modern pop idiom with an air of merry presumption. John boasts about composing 21 songs for the score in 21 days, while Rice blithely remarks what "great fun" it was to have such a dramatic narrative at his disposal. The Disney Broadway musical based on their efforts is scheduled to open in spring 2000, after which opera lovers will find themselves having to explain to those outside their circle

to do with the John/Rice version, rather than vice versa. To complicate matters further, this album has little to do with the proposed musical, being instead a vehicle for various star turns including Sting. Tina Turner, the Spice Girls, Boyz II Men, James Taylor and, oddly, Lenny Kravitz, to tackle some of the songs des-

in the Stars (his duet with LeAnn Rimes).



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that Verdi's Aida has nothing.

tined for the show in any way they feel inclined.

The result is a collection of predictably humalong tunes, freighted with blustery cheruses and much ersatz emotion. with John hanging on to most of the best stuff for himself, including the recent hit, Written

During the suitably melodramatic death scene depicted in The Messenger he and Lulu

quivering harmonies and a sto-ical resolve: "Now the pain is over/Now we lie together/ .Gracefully at rest." Failure, one fears, is not an

BLACKSTREET Finally.

APPARENTLY Blackstreet supremo Teddy Riley declined to work on a song with Whitney Houston because she asked him to do "something like No. Diggity", the number which re-mains Blackstreet's biggest hit and a key factor in pushing sales of their 1996 album, Another Level, past the six million mark

But if the originator of swingbeat is so keen to avoid repeating past triumphs, it seems odd that Finally, Blackstreet's third album, should be bookended by songs based on samples of old Jackson Five hits; Can You Feel Me/It and Take Me There (built on the well-thumbed riff of I Want

You Back).
Elsewhere there are plenty
of nicely crafted R&B ballads, such as In a Rush (featuring a harmonica cameo by Stevie Wonder), and slinky hip hop/soul grooves including Girl-friend/Boyfriend (a mildly sensuous duet between Riley and Janet Jackson). But there is little evidence of the innovation to which Riley says he aspires.

EVIE SANDS Women In Prison Distribution TW009 E14.99) HER last album was the appropriately titled Suspended Animation, released in 1979. Now Evie Sands is back with



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an album discreetly guided by her mentor from the 1970s, the co-songwriter, co-producer, guitarist and backing singer Chip Taylor, but brimming with a wise and womanly passion that is hers alone.

pared in the sleeve notes to Dusty Springfield's Dusty in Memphis, the album is closer in spirit to the middle-aged blues of Bonnie Raitt or the rootsy birdsong of Eva Cassidy. And, while the arrangements sound a bit middle-ofthe-road, every so often there is a flash of something stronger, as when she launches into the bitter tirade of I Hate You ashamed yearning of I Want Your Hands: "No, that ain't wrong/That's just a woman/ Singing a song/She ain't sup-

posed to sing."

TOP TEN ALBUMS

1	(1)	Performance and Cocktalis	Stereophonics (V2
2	(2)	Tafk on Corners	Corrs (Attentio
3	(+)	13	Blur (Food
4	(4)	Tys Boos Expecting You	_Robbie Williams (Chrysalis
5	(3)	The Miseducation of	Lauryn Hill (Columbia
		My Love is Your Love	
7	(14)	Lades & Gentlemen - The Best of	George Michael (Epic
8	(12)	Believe	Cher (WEA
		Baby One More That	
		Forgives, Not Forgottes	

Sowing seeds of Lebanon

RABIH ABOU-KHALIL

Enja ENJ-9360 2

THE Lebanese oud player Rabih Abou-Khalil has lived in Munich since the late 1970s, and is now his label's top-selling artist. On this, his tenth al-bum — music for Yara, a film by Yilmaz Arslan -- he is joined by two Frenchmen, violinist Dominique Pifarely and cellist Vincent Courtois, and Syrian frame drummer Nabil Khaiat, but fiercely resists the label "world music". Indeed, his work is genuinely unclassifiable, sui generis, primarily concerned with purely musical matters — the creation of mood, the blending of unusual instrumental sounds to create intriguing textures - rather than extra-musical ones such as selfconscious cross-cultural exchange. Thus majestic, sonorous themes give rise to grace-

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

ful violin and oud solos; dancing rhythms are propelled by skirling strings; melancholic airs slowly unfold from the gently communing interplay of violin and cello, or oud and frame drum, and the result is an album of startling originality and virtuosic elegance.

BILL BRUFORD'S EARTHWORKS A Part, and Yet Apart Discipline Global Mobile DGM 9905

THE sixth album from ex-Yes drummer Bill Bruford's Earthworks features an entirely new personnel and a slight change in musical emphasis. Bruford has always had a keen jazz ear, and Earthworks' previous incarnation showcased the upcoming talents of the 1980s UK scene; this band does the same for those of the late 1990s: gutsy saxophonist Patrick Clahar, sparkling pianist Steve Hamilton, eloquent bassist Mark Hodgson. Bruford still has a penchant for airy yet punchy themes that lend themselves well to his brisk but supple drumming style, but the htiv seliconscious archnes of previous albums has been replaced by a more straightforward approach.

CHRIS PARKER

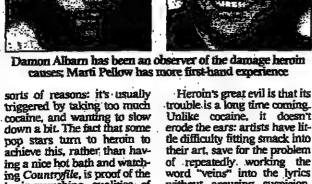
They shoot horse, don't they

here's no surprise in Brent Anderson from Suede's revelation that he's had problems with heroin; nor Damon Albarn from Blur's confession that the No 1 single Beetlebum was about his former girlfriend. Justine Frischmann from Elastica, and the same yucky brown stuff. Anyone who has an opinion about the nature of coolness — and further surmises that it consists of leather jacklets, androgynous hair, having a bottom smaller than their lapels and being fabulously cyni-cal about a world that's actually rather lovely — is bound to run into trouble, because they are trying to impress dead people Dim Morrison, Janis Joplin, Keith Moon), and the dead are famously impassive.
It's beyond predictable that

heroin has made inroads into the Britpop gonks - it's part of a tedious, much-trodden cycle that starts with a brilliant pop-py album, cocaine, euphoria and success; modulates through difficulties adjusting to fame and exhaustion; and ends with a sprawling doublealbum, depression and heroin. Pop stars take heroin for all Heroin's a mug's game. So why, Caitlin Moran wonders, do so many pop stars still play it?



ing Countryfile, is proof of the brain-munching qualities: of



Unlike cocaine, it doesn't erode the ears: artists have little difficulty fitting smack into their art, save for the problem of repeatedly working the word "veins" into the lyrics without arousing suspicion. The list of good heroin albums is as long as, and pretty much consists of, the list of the greatest albums of all time. The list of good cocaine albums, on the TICKET ON THE other hand, is as long as a midget's widget. Given this, smack isn't really a problem. as far as A&R men are con-Management are also pretty

sanguine about a nascent habit. Look it from their point of view: the artist is now quiet and malleable. He can be coburn that appears "deep" and "meaningful", so hey!, there might even be a crossover

Heroin's great evil is that its

erced into doing things he would previously consider beneath his dignity. He's stopped whining about wanting a holiday. He's not putting on weight and his spots have cleared up. He's writing an althing in prospect. In fact, from an industry

point of view, here are some of the things a pop star could do that would be worse than taking heroin: 1) Fiddle with kids: 2) Get fat;-3) Go mad; 4) Become a Quaker; 5) Start going out with someone very, very ugly; 6) Get head stuck be-

tween railings during photo-shoot; 7) Break zip on favourite jacket day before world tour starts; 8) Record album about economics: 9) Die.

And, as far as the general public is concerned, junkie pop stars are one of life's small bonuses. Not only can we thrill to the Schadenfreude, but we can also haul out the drug thesauruses and spend an enjoyable hour saying "He's smacking horse up" and Brett Anderson's been slamdancing with Mr Brownstone" in a faintly hysterical way.

No — and this is a fairly obvious point — the only person to suffer adversely when a pop star starts taking heroin is the pop star himself. It's his life that hangs in suspended animation while he drains his bank account: it's his emotions that become immune to any-thing not chemical; it's his friends and family that recede into the background, to be re-placed by fellow ghosts who lear the sun. Given that we all know this, the question re-mains: why would any pop star take heroin?

member is that not heroin per se memble junkies. It's that makes people junkies. It's the holes in people's lives that make them junkies. Once you become famous, you become hermetically scaled from any kind of tribulation and woe: yet, unless one is Buddhawhumpingly enlightened, human beings always unconsciously seek out grief in order to learn from it, and evolve. Also, as a songwriter, it's your job to articulate pain and joy and normal life, yet you've been carefully removed from your source. Heroin gives you almost instant trouble, and the kind of faux gravitas the insecure nouveau famous crave.

Given this psychological profile, it was almost inevitable that Marti Pellow from Wet Wet Wet was admitted to hospital after overdosing last week. He's always been desperate to be admired by the cool bands, yet was always dismissed as an MOR chipmunk with too much time and hairgel on his hands. Still, I have to confess, I didn't see that one

Lisa Verrico enters the hectic life of Craig Armstrong, composer to the stars

• Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

raig Armstrong must be Britain's busiest musician. Since winning Bafta and Ivor Novello awards last year for his soundtrack to Baz Luhrmann's Romeo + Juliet, the Glaswegian composer has been inundated with work. Right now, he is halfway through scoring director Michael Mann's latest big-budget movie, is com-pleting a classical piece for Clio Gould, leader of the London Sinfonietta, and writing songs for his second pop alburn for Melankolic, Massive Attack's label. In addition, Armstrong was recently in Dublin to produce U2's forthcoming single collaboration with Salman Rushdie and has signed a deal with Michael Ny-

man's label to release his own classical albums. "But I'm very choosy about the jobs I take on," insists the affable 39-year-old. "I used to accept every offer. Now. no matter how famous a director



takes a break from working

is, if I don't like a film, I turn down the work." Media-shy and seemingly

ego-free, Armstrong is unlikely to become a household name. Nevertheless, his music is already familiar to millions through his work on Goldeneve, Batman Forever and Mission impossible. At the end of this month.

Armstrong is back in British cinemas, courtesy of Ridley Scott's director son, Jake. Having fallen for the composer's debut solo album, The Space Between Us, young Scott asked Armstrong to write the score for Plunkett & Macleane, which stars Robert Carlyle. Set in the late 18th century, Plunkett & Macleane is a humorous highwayman costume caper. But, rather than writing

Low-key and ubiquitous

ersatz period tunes, Armstrong chose throbbing techno and trip hop to score scenes such as a ball. "It is a bizarre mix," Armstrong admits. "It's a trick I've been using for years though. If actors are in period costume, contemporary music sounds striking."

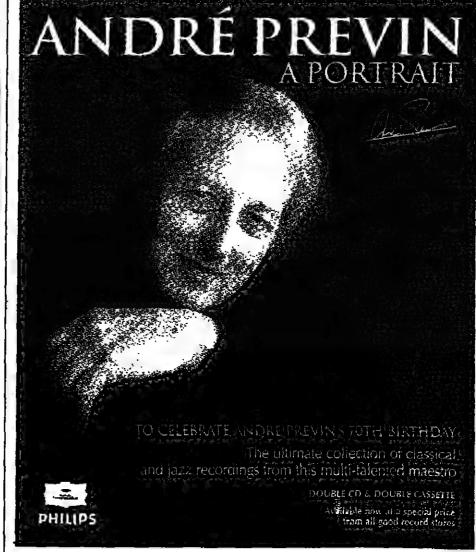
Despite graduating from the Royal Academy of Music with a clutch of awards, including Young Jazz Musician of

Armstrong found work in his favoured field. "I thought I would walk out of the Royal Academy and become a composer, but nobody took me seriously," he says. "I would go into the jazz clubs and say I was the Young Jazz Musician of the Year and they'd say: 'So

what? We've got Start Getz on this evening'." In time, he returned to Glas-

as a pop star. He was a founder member of Texas and cowrote the group's first big hit, I Don't Want a Lover. "But I was too romantic to be in a band," he says. "After Texas, I left pop. I was 27 and I felt too old. I wanted to act like an adult. I wanted to work with dance companies."

His big break came through meeting producer Nellee Hooper, who introduced Armstrong to both Massive Attack and Madonna, and would later collaborate with him on Goldeneye and Romeo + Juliet. And the rest is pop history. • The Plunkett & Macleane soundtrack is released on March 29 by



Hip hoaxers from the beat generation

Duping of the media is not new. Forty years on,

Mike Mosson relates how he fooled The Guardian

o the BBC and Channel 4 have been exposed presenting actors and hoaxers on talk shows and documentaries. What's new? Forty years ago I was a chemistry student in Manchester. Maurice Hatton, a photography student, and I edited the college's formightly magazine — jazz, poetry readings, hints of drugs and sexual freedom. In a fill-in piece on beamilts we let our

imaginations run loose - with our only knowledge coming from reading about the Beat Generation in California. We thought little more about it, being rightly proud of the cover photograph of Lowry at work in his studio and our interview with him.
Within days The (Manchester) Guardian

was on the phone. Beatniks in Manchester! Could we take a feature writer and a photog-

rapher to a beatnik party? Maurice and I had just finished our finals. We had nothing else to do and the opportunity was too good to miss. If The Guardian wanted to visit a

beatnik party it should surely be able to do so. Maurice had a friend with a photographic studio on Manchester's Oxford Street. Its attic would make an ap-

propriate venue. The next two days were spent recruiting and briefing fellow students — men with beards (then uncommon), girls with long hair, musicians, and others who would behave strangely. We arranged to meet The Guardian duo

— Michael Frayn, then a feature writer, and
a staff photographer — near to the site of
"The Beatnik Party".

When we arrived the party was in full
swing and the representatives of the press
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duly mingled, talking to and photographing participants, who played their parts to the full - expressing radical philosophies of life and overt sexual attentions, regardless of gender. There was home-played modern jazz, some dubious smoke, and I read Allen Gins-

berg's Howl to a guitar accompaniment.

The following week The Guardian published a description of Frayn's encounter with Manchester's beatniks. Mission accomplished! That autumn, when the long-haired year had resumed, one of the long-haired girls who had played her part for *The Guard*-

ian, was in a coffee bar. An older women took the next seat and said: "I work for the BBC. Do you know any beatniks?" My collaborator replied that she had been at the party written up in *The Guardian*. The research-er's excitement was unrestrained as she wanted to know how to contact the organisers.

Once again the temptation was too great to resist. We met the researcher and the BBC producer in the grottiest pub we knew. They worked for a TV book review programme pre-sented by Brian Redhead, then features editor of *The Guardian* and later anchor of BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. Nancy Spain, a tabloid columnist, was to review Jack Ker-ouac's second book. His best seller, *On the* Road, had been the first popular novel of the Beat Generation. The BBC wanted to incorpo-

interviews with beatniks into Nancy's review of

his sequel, So the following Sunday we found ourselves in BBC TV's Manchester more than eight hours to produce a half-hour half-hour pro-gramme. Presenter. reviewer and production staff dashed off to the local between takes to steady their

Maurice

became

Scoop: The Guardian of June 16, 1959

BEATNIKS JUST DOING

THEIR BEST

Ginsberg's candle-lit apostles

more and more extreme in our proclaimed philosophies as we were repeatedly introduced to the camera. We went on and on, set-ting out to upset a middle-class audience. Our rewards? An hour in the hospitality room with unlimited whisky and sandwiches

and, three months later, a cheque for £12; and some understanding of the fear of audience indifference that can drive the professional TV performer to drink, deception and self-destruction. We also acquired a profound scepticism about anything presented by the media as reality.

There were two family reactions to my TV performance. From my mother a telegram: "You are desperately ill. Come home at once." From my then future mother-in-law: "You can't marry him?"

 Mike Mosson retired in 1997 as director of human resources for the Royal Bank of Scotland. Maurice Hatton, who died last year, was a photographer and film-maker.

NEXT MONDAY,

DISCOVER THAT



Phil Redmond tells Carol Midgley: "We are not stopping the sex and sensationalism storylines but we need to involve characters the audience can relate

Creator meets fanatic

hese have been test-ing times for the true Brookside fanatic. Those of us who fell head over heels for Bobby and Sheila Grant and George and Marie Jackson in the Eighties and have built our week around Channel 4's three halfhourly episodes ever since, have found recent events little

short of traumatic. Storylines in the Liverpool scap opera, which once put bodies under patios and Roman Catholic priests in bed with young women, had started to meander and become, well, boring. Characters whom you thought you had known for years suddenly appeared to change personality overnight. Worse, government

TIMES

The faltering Liverpool soap Brookside is going back to basics. Phil Redmond tells Carol Midgley why

propaganda started seeping into the dialogue more obviously; Brookside Junkies tuning in for a fix of sensationalism began to hear dialogue about the Ofsted report and adult literacy courses.

Last year, as ratings started to slide, came the alarming rumours that Channel 4 was about to axe Brookside, its flagship programme. The crisis reached its pinnacle last week-end when it was reported that Phil Redmond, the soap's crea-tor and head of Mersey Television, was bowing out as pro-ducer declaring himself, at 49, 'too old" for the job.

So it is a slightly worldweary Redmond who turns up at the Langham Hilton hotel in London to explain what is going on. Is he really abandontured since birth 17 years ago? "It is rubbish, complete rub-bish," he says. "I have never been the series producer. I just get involved with the scripts when there is something big

going on like the body under the patio story. "I have brought two new families into the Close, so I have been more involved than usual but now they are established I am stepping back

again. That's all." Redmond hopes the arrival of the Musgroves and the Shadwicks, both classic workor mystery viruses to pull in viewers, the drama will come from the characters, which, Brookside fans hope, will take

Billy and Doreen would regularly scream the house down. Redmond says he realised the show needed resuscitating at the end of 1997 when he saw spectacularly dull scene. "Ron Dixon and (David) Bing

it back to the glory days when

Crosby were arguing about Ron putting some perrol in his car, which went on for about seven minutes. 1 refer to it as the time we lost the plot. I there was going we could start again. We had the gas explo-sion and that's how the Shad-

wicks came in." Redmond has also been quoted as saying that there were too many middle-class families in Brookside and that working-class drama was more interesting than middie-class drama which could

not "hold a large audience". "I never said that the middle classes were boring. I said that sensationalism storylines but we need to involve characters the audience can relate to families that worry about how to pay the mortgage."
At an average audience of

3.3 million, Brookside's ratings are below par. But they are not, insists Redmond, as bad as has been claimed. Dur-ing the trial of Mandy and Beth Jordache, which was the

show's peak, the audience for an Redmond beratings problem channels being particularly

strong. He also says Channel 4 has failed to pro-The Shadwicks vocal mote the show property. There has been virtually no

promotional publicity for Brookside, it's all been about Sex and the City and American imports. Our big impact was supposed to be last November with the arrival of the Musgroves but the marketing got screwed up. Channel 4 promoted Lindsay's wedding to Peter instead, but Peter's character was leaving. So we

how Redmond feels? "Lers just say he's aware of the situa-tion. But there is always a year of uncertainty when a new

chief executive comes in." The fact that *Brookside* has a tiny budget and far fewer scriptwriters than EastEnders or Coronation Street is legendary. Extras rarely have a speaking part and you will never hear copyrighted pop music or see television programmes in any *Brookside* bars or hous-es because Mersey cannot afford the fees. But lack of money cannot ac-

count for storylines that have driven fans to distraction. For example, to write out Max Farnham, the scriptwriters suddenly decided that he had been having an affair for 20 years - something that had never been mentioned before.

"Sometimes we get it wrong and Max was one thing I will put my hand up to. We had to come up with something of (his wife) would not contem-

plate having him back."
Redmond is adamant that contemporary issues do have a place. "These are things that affect people's lives. We are going to have Margi Shadwick being asked to join a Euro-

pean task force." Redmond is also introducing "flexecutives". "Flexis are what we would have called yuppies in the Eighties but they are scruffier, and whereas yuppies would have been lawyers and accountants, flexis have jobs in the media.

"By the end of 1997 we didn't have one traditionally function tional family, but now I think we have set things up to be really interesting."

a successful series has to have A FREE HOUSE IS NOT the same range of demographics as the audience and the ing-class families with a tendency to shout at each other, middle class only make up 30 per cent of the population. We will help to restore Brookside's didn't get the impact." Does Channel 4's chief exectraditional values. Rather than relying on gas explosions utive, Michael Jackson, know are going back to basics. We JUST A KIND OF PUB.



Fantastic Win A House competition with Virgin One. Starting in The Times, next Monday. Plus a free 24-page glossy Interiors magazine to keep.



CHANGING TIMES

egy, but ITV is cock-a-hoop over the performance of its new schedule uninterrupted by the bongs of News at Ten. It is now clear why ITV put so much effort into persuading the Independent Television Commission to permit the change. Helped by stockpiled movie premieres such as Goldeneye and The Specialist, ITV raced to a 47.2 per cent share of peak-time viewing, leaving BBC I trailing with 37.3 per cent. It is the best ITV performance for four years and will give Richard Eyre, ITV's chief executive, a good chance of achieving the near impossi-ble — increasing ITV's peak-time audience share by one percentage point this year to 39 per cent.

Reversing the downward trend from 44.3 per cent in 1994 as more and more channels have come on stream will be a big achievement. It will be even more demanding to repeat the trick in 2000 and take the share up to the self-imposed target of 40 per cent. The signs from Wednesday's launch of its spring and summer schedule — with a strong se-

lection of popular domestic drama ranging from Trevor Eve in Andrea Newman's new psychological thriller, Evil Streak, to Rhinoceros, a romantic comedy starring Robson Green — do not appear good for the BBC. On the real-life side Birth Race 2000 - providing a little help for couples who want to give birth to a millennium baby - contrasts with a 20-part series from Melvyn Bragg on 20 centuries of Christianity.

The overall impression created is that the BBC could be on the back foot for some time and will have plenty of opportunities to polish its traditional fall-back argument that it is not in the business of chasing rat-

ings. And ITV saves its best programmes for the autumn, the peak advertising season. In the past there have been cycles of programming success, times when the BBC has been firing on all cylinders. Despite the ever-increasing competition, BBC I increased its audience share in 1995 and 1996. But since then ITV has fought back. We are now seeing the effects of a resurgent ITV combining with the newly liberated schedule. It could be a long time before the BBC is a serious contender - its spring and summer schedules to be revealed on Monday had better be good. The ratings pressure could not come at

Committee is looking into ways of increasing its income and at what opportunities there are for greater savings from the reve-nues it has got. Financial pressure will in-crease as the licence fee rises by less than the cost of inflation. Inevitably there will also be a period of instability as all the top BBC management start answering the advertisements that appeared this week for a new director-general.

The improvement in the fortunes of fTV could not be coming at a better time for Richard Eyre, who very much wants to be the next director-general of the BBC. Poaching him might be a neat way of at least causing TTV to falter in its tracks. It is inconceivable that Eyre will not be on

the shortlist for the job that many broadcasters find endlessly desirable - despite all the drawbacks.

THE rationale behind Lord Rothermere's decision to launch the Metro free newspaper on the London Underground this week is clear. In part it is an opportunity to develop a new business, but it also looks like a measure to stop any other paper from attacking the soft underbelly of the Evening Standard by launching a free newspaper of its own.

News International, the owner of The

Times, has been looking at just such a free paper to try to win some of the Standard's classified advertising market. The project has, in effect. been put on hold to see how Metro pans out. It is still a coura-geous plan to hand out a respectable, if basic, free newspaper at every Tube station when you are in the business of selling the Dal-ly Mail and Evening Standard

to the same people.

There is the anecdotal evidence of the overenthusiastic Metro distributor who got too close to a newsagent and cut sales of the Mail by 20 per cent. It will be a very skilful highwire act indeed if Associated can produce a free newspaper that is good enough to be a success without cannibalising the readership of its main titles. Tuesday's issue, for example, had a full report of the Spurs versus Barnsley FA Cup game and carried an advertisement for the Evening Standard promising a full report of the match.

But full marks to the young Lord Rothermere for having the courage to test an interesting theory - that in a clogged London, the way to reach new readers is to use the public transport system.

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Writ

over

credits

Survival Anglia, the wildlife programming arm of United News and Media, is becoming

a cause célèbre on behalf of independent producers, Survi-

val Anglia, a sister company of Anglia Television, on Wednes-day said it would contest a writ

from Australia's Prospero Productions, claiming copyright theft and seeking damages of

The row concerns a six-part

series made by Prospero, Hu-tan, Wildlife of the Malaysian

Rainforest. The names of Pros-

pero and its directors were re-

moved from the credits when

the series was retitled Malay-sian Jungle and aired by Chan-

nel 5 last month. The series was billed as a "Catspaw pres-

entation for Channel 5" and

the names of Catspaw's pro-

duction team were given as Si-

mon Ellis, Roy Hunt, Joanna

Mintly, Andrea Olsen, Petra

Prospero says Catspaw had

nothing to do with the making of the Malaysian series, though It is involved in packa-

ging programmes for Channel 5 swildlife strand. Apart from

the producers and cine-

matographers, no other mem-

bers of the Prospero produc-

Ed Punchard, a director of

Prospero and a producer on

the Malaysian series who was

credited on screen, says he had

to make a stand because the

company's lifeblood was its in-

tellectual property: "By seek-ing to take credit for our work,

Survival Anglia is damaging

our reputation and depriving

Peter du Cane, the supervis-

ing director for the series and

director of the first two pro-

grammes, is even more upset.

Copies of the credits show that

he was not mentioned when

the first four programmes

were aired. When the problem

was pointed out to Channel 5

the credits corrected for the fi-

nai one. Prospero has no com-

plaint with Channel 5. In a let-

ter to Survival Anglia, du Cane

described making the series,

shot in the rainforest. "It was

hot and humid, there were

mosquitoes and leeches. Now I

discover that the series has

us of future commissions."

tion team were mentioned.

Regent and Peter Scholfield.

at least £500,000.

row over the credits, bordering on alleged copyright theft" by

Noel Edmonds is relieved that the House Party has been axed. He is now planning bigger things for Saturday night TV, says Meg Carter

omorrow night will be a mixed blessing for Noel Edmonds, It marks the end of an era with the last edition of Noel's House Party on BBCi. And a beginning, too, as Edmonds pursues a range of oth-er ideas under Magic, a new strategic alliance with the former BBC head of light entertainment, Michael Leggo, and Michael Huril, the executive producer of Blind Date.

Noel's House Party was once described by the former BBCI Controller Alan Yentob as "the most important show on the BBC". Since then its ratings have slumped from 15 million to six million. Responding to the announcement that the show must end, Edmonds insisted that the decision was "mutual", adding: "I feel as though a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders."

He identifies parallels between the fluctuating fortunes of House Party and the BBC throughout the eightyear run.
"House Party is one of the

most accurate mirrors for what's been happening at the BBC in recent years," he says. The programme changed a lot, as did the BBC. Both suffered from enormous cost-cutting, which brought into focus weaknesses on the production side. A lot of talent left to launch their own companies and, after the fifth year, the cuts really began to hurt." Contrary to popular opin-

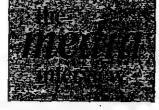
inn, while Edmonds owns the House Party format - including the Crinkley Bottom name and features such as the Gunge Tank and Grab A Grand — the show has always been made by the BBC inhouse. In a well-documented spat during the last series, one show was cancelled after Edmonds walked out in protest at production standards.

Max.

Edmonds sees other parallels between the demise of his show and the state of the BBC.

Both have been affected by changes in society and a shift in attitudes to - and within television. "Take the explosion of the leisure industry," he says. "Leisure has become a major consideration in terms of time and money. Television has become merely a part of this. It isn't special any more."

At the same time broadcasters have found themselves losing control. "They may want to perpetuate the myth that they are the power base but they are not. Bill Gates could probably buy Rupert Murdoch with the change in his back pocket. We will soon see a massive



shift in power. Already the conventional view of television is flying out of the window." Edmonds enjoys an in-

formed perspective on British television: he has spent more than two decades as the face of Saturday television on BBC1. But his television prankster persona belies his off-air role as businessman and millionaire. Unique Group, which Edmonds owns outright, makes programmes for commercial and non-commercial television and radio stations, and last year turned over £15 mil-

to £20 million in 1999. its activities span television production, talent management, live events - Unique recently renewed its contract to produce Proms in the Park for BBC television - video conferencing and a division developing "new applications for proven broadcast technology".

We want to cater for the broadcast industry's changing demands and needs," he says.

"Once, the only thing anyone was interested in was who was going to host a new television show. Then it was all about formats. Now it's who's going to produce it. With budgets down, the true skill lies in resource management."

Magic, the alliance between Edmonds, Leggo and Hurll, is intended to take each into new production genres. Edmonds talks enthusiastically about corporate television networks and the Internet. A recently launched - operation installs video-meetings networks, technology that can be adapted for broadcast use, or for original material accessible via the Net. Given Edmonds's track record, it is likely to be a sbrewd investment.

'He is not, however, plan-ning to turn his back on broadcast television. He has recently completed The World of the Secret Camera for BBCL Meanwhile, Unique is working on four pilots for the BBC and developing three television event show formats for ITV. Then there is Magic's involvement in at least four new series and the brief to come up with a new Saturday-night entertainment format for BBC1. "A massive challenge," he admits.

Edmonds's style of light entertainment is tried and tested and, given the right format, broadcasters seem confident that it can still generate rat-ings. Weary of the fad for "doeusoans". Edmonds predicts a viewing backlash as audiences clamour for popular entertaintant roles today is creating TV events," he says. "There has been a decline in programmes that are exciting and involv-ing." Who Wants to be a Millionaire? is an exception. "It works the way House Party used to - live, with viewer in-

teraction and fresh ideas." The challenge is to make programmes that people feel they must watch. Success can come only from building brands —



"People are weary of docusoaps," Noel Edmonds says. He predicts a backlash as viewers clamour for popular entertainment

much quick burn," he says. And deregulation of radio has been a factor. "Once radio was traditional breeding ground for new talent. Now we have an industry unwilling

programmes and "stars". "But to take risks. Where would it's all fireworks now. Too Kenny Everett start out Kenny Everett start out today?

Few traditional television companies, including the BBC, are willing to nurture new talent or to build loyalty.

man, currently fronting three shows on three different channels - hardly a recipe for developing a broadcaster's televi-

sion brand, he observes. Point taken. Until. that is, he lets slip that he has yet to deruns out in March 2000. "Radio 2 is the UK's most successful radio station be-

Bank Holiday (May 1 to 3).

That's when the network

devotes three days to Pets in Need, a live telethon, to find

homes for Britain's 20,000

stray dogs and cats. Who

thought up this fluffy ruse?

headed by Greg Dyke, tipped

by some to become the next

BBC Director-General.

Why Pearson Television ...

fun" working with "other peo-ple" when his BBC contract cause of its talent line-up," he

been broadcast ... without any credit for myself." adds. "BBC TV should listen. Survival Anglia's lawyers say the "series production team" credit is standard in Britain and referred to the entire lard four years ago which has Channel 5 wildlife series; it nevso rocketed in influence that male editors regularly beg to er meant to suggest that those credited produced the work. attend its parties. Survival adds that it had the right to make changes under IF YOU treasure a pet-free the contract - drawn up with existence, here's a tip: don't Primetime, the programming switch on ITV over the May distributors - which says chan-

> 5's policy "providing producer and director credits remain". United News and Media yesterday said it had received no formal statement of claim from Prospero and that Prime-

ges or deletions can be made to

credits to conform to Channel

time had cleared the credits. RAYMOND SNODDY

WHILE BSkyB's proposed takeover of Manchester United, and the Premier League's turmoil grab headlines, behind the scenes the Government is determined to force through a fairer system to recycle the huge sums raised by the sale of rights to TV.

Let's face it, sport is just a sub-division of TV these days." says a key adviser. Ministers want the multimillion-pound bonanza distributed throughout football, cricket, rugby, and tennis instead of bolstering ahandful of clubs and the lifestyles of overpaid stars.

Chris Smith's Department of Culture, Media and Sports is uncomfortable at watching freemarket forces wreak damage on an American scale. It wants to link "delisted" sports

A share in sport's TV millions

auctioned off for subscription or even a pay-per-view) with a cast-iron method of cash redistribution. Advisers are working on a strategic plan.

A NEW Editor for the Financial Times? That's the chatter at the paper where the incumbent Richard Lambert is close to clocking up ten years, traditionally regarded as the correct length of tenure at the pink helm. The successor? Australian-born Robert Thompson is in the frame. Currently editing the American edition.

the big push to hit 100,000 sales by the end of the year, ordained by (owner) Pearson's Marjorie Scardino. An-

who deputised for Lambert, is in Germany, preparing the new Germanlanguage Deutsche FT with partners Bertelsmann for launch this autumn. So determinedly international is the FT's stance — foreign sales outstripped UK ones last August



- that the Budget, for the first time, didn't make the front pages of the international editions last week.

THERE has been a battle behind the scenes over the title Jailbirds. The BBC got there

with Chris Terrill's docusoap about life in a new Yorkshire women's prison Brian Park, the former Coro-

producer, making a drama series by that name for ITV starting on May 17...except that it is being renamed Bad Girls (Muffs in Cuffs was rejected).

FTVE new media stalwarts, two men, three women, are be-

lies and Mergers Commission. They are: Donald Trelford, former Editor of The Observer: Charles Wilson, former Editor of The Times and Mirror Group director: Joyce Hopkirk, former magazine editor; Linda Christmas, former Guardian woman's editor and journalism lecturer; and Eve Pollard, former

Sunday Express Editor. The interesting thing is that the key body sounded out for the recommendations was Women in Journalism, the networking group founded by Pol-

THE TIMES & DILLONS FORUM in association with The Word

Times readers are invited to a rare evening with John le Carré, one of Britain's bestselling novelists, on Sunday, March 28,

Introduced by the Editor of The Times, Peter Stothard, the internationally acclaimed author will talk about his life and work, and read from his latest novel Single & Single. If you would like to ask John le Carré a question, please e-mail johnlecarre@the-times.co.uk. For more details visit The Times/le carré website at www.the-times.co.uk/lecarre.html.

The event, which forms part of The Word literary festival, will be held at the LSE Peacock theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, London WC1. Tickets cost £9 and can be booked on 0171-863 8222

BRIAN MACARTHUR THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Waters to the						
			EERUAR)	1999	True Carlo	C C
NAIL	DNALSA	-				Secr
		Compared	S Compared		Market :	
TARLOID	Average daily sale	to Jan '99	to Feb '98	%+/-	share	
The Sun	3,698,805	-23,611	-18,094	-0.49	27.27	
Daily Mirror	2,301,499	12,126	-23.864	-1.03	16.97	s they scanned sales
Datty Express	1,091,790	-12,023	-103,976	-8.70	8.05	records for the first two months of 1999, only
Daily Mall	2,346,502	3.808	48,090	2.09	17.30	six of the 19 editors of national
Daily Star	534,704	-5,287	-50,738	-8.67	3.94 5 0.67	newspapers could celebrate in-
Daily Star (Irish)	90,910	837	3,373	3.85 2.38	5.16	creases over February 1998, al-
Dally Record	700,497	20,191	16,173	118	7938	though several, including The
TABLOD TOTAL	10,764,707	3,959	129,036	. <u>1.78</u>		Times, recorded sales increas-
BROADSHEET				-6.89	5.57	es in the past two months. Seeking reasons for success,
The Times	755,359	9,042	-55,883 -27,042	-2.53	7.69	they may have been tempted
D Telegraph	1,043,653	3,513		-2.55	2.95	to follow the example of Tony
Guardian	400,600	1,448	-4,151 3.715	1.72	1.62	Blair and utter mantras: in-
Independent	220,203	654		7.65	281	vestment, investment, invest-
Fix Times	380.581	-4,098	27,033			ment. News, news, news. Val-
B'SHEET TOTAL	2,800,396	10,559	56.378	197	20,64	ue for money, value for mon-
_		6,600	185.864	-135	100	ey, value for money. The
GRAND TOTAL	13,585,103			26.0 F 74		papers that are succeeding are
		SUNDAY TIT	TF2		- 1	getting or offering all three. The most notable examples
TABLOID Now	4,296.654	-17,698	-246,803	-5.43	29.94	are the Daily Mail and The
	1,662.080	-72.514	-68,879	-3.98	11.58	Mail on Sunday under the
The People	1,985,075	-63,627	<u>144,197</u>	-6.77	13.83	direction of Editor-in-Chief
Sunday Mirror	1,010,122	439	100,174	-9.02	7.04	Paul Dacre, the first Editor-in-
Sunday Express	2,326,195	34,948	94,908	4.25	16.21	Chief in my recollection who
Mail on Sunday		191.897	519.049	4.32	80.12	really is a hands-on Editor-in-
TABLOID TOTAL	11,497,794	121,051		42. ·		. Chief, especially now his
BROADSHEET		5,428	4.245	0.31	9.60	former deputy Peter Wright
Sunday Times	1.377,297	-12,939	-11,690	-2.79	2.84	edits the Sunday paper.
Observes	406,937		-24,075	-2.86	5.69	Their success is not surpris- ing. Both have millions to
Son Telegraph	816,978	5,391 -482	4.369	1.76	1.76	spend on editorial. Neither
led on Sunday	252,105			-0.94	1888	willingly accepts failure. Each
B'SHEET FOOL	2,853,317	1,602	27,151	4 E-4-25		demands 12 to 14-hour work-
B.SHEET, 1991		123,499	548,200	6.67	100	ing days from their staff. Their
GRAND TOTAL	14,351,431					marketing departments spend

Secret of sales success

millions advertising the titles consecutive months. Invest-

has been shown over the past two weeks in a revamp of The Mail on Sunday. It now hits the doorstep with five chunky sections and increasingly apes The Sunday Times agenda, especially with a new Review section which is heavy on text and

on television - almost £19 mil-

That willingness to invest

big on star names. Sales have

Chief, with Kim Fletcher as Editor of the Sunday title, last May. Sales of both papers are now up year-on-year for the first time in three years. Year-on-year sales of the three red-top Sundays are

ment, whether in hiring more

journalists or launching new

sections, is also telling at The

Independent, where Simon Kelner became Editor-in-

down by nearly 500,000. Are

REGIONAL 5	ALES	
TOP SELLING UK REGIONAL	PAID WEDCLES	
TITLE	Jui — Dec 1998	%+/-
West Briton	50,603	0.4
Essex Chronicie	49,683	0.2
Surrey Advertises	45,492	0.2
Kent Meesenger	45,383	5.3
Chester Chronicle	44,322	-10
TOP SELLING UK REGIONA	L MORNINGS	
Aberdeen - Press & Journal	104,548	-0.6
Dendee Courier & Advertiser	101,079	-1.6
Dundes Courier & Advertiser	95,508	-2.3
Norwich - Eastern Daily Press	78,647	0.2
Leeds - Yorkshire Post	75,836	0
TOP SET LING UK RECKON	U. EVENINGS	- 24
Birmingsom Evening Mail (Mon-Fri)	187.598	-2.4
/est Midiands Express & Star (Mon-Frl)	186,969	-2.6
Manchester Evening News (Mon-Fri)	173,446	0.1
Liverpool Echo (Mon-Fri)	157,9 99	-1.1
Belfast Telegraph	124,530	-3.6

they offering value for money is the question some of their editors ask themselves. On my count The Mail on Sunday had 364 pages last week, against 394 for The Sunday Times (also up year-on-year). It is regional newspapers

that have the biggest success story to tell. Sales for the last half of 1998 show that 70 per cent of the weeklies, half the morning papers and 35 per cent of the evenings recorded year-on-year sales increases.

One of those mornings is the Western Daily Press, edited by Ian Beales and selling 60,000 a day. Adding value has been the Bristol philosophy: it has introduced a 48-page Saturday colour magazine, a 20-page Monday sports section and daily supplements. Saturday sales are up by 8 per cent.

Local news, high story counts, editionising made easier by new technology, home delivery - 40 per cent of Northcliffe's newspapers are delivered direct - are some reasons for the renaissance in the regions. Yet again, investment, news, value for money.

ingging and as

The man who can make deals

Rob Dickins, former chairman of Warner, is setting up a new label under Sony. Chris Ayres reports

hen The Corrs received their gong for Best International Group at last month's Brit Awards, they thanked a man unknown to most outside the music industry: Rob Dickins. Their appreciation was understandable. Dickins was responsible for signing the band to Warner Music in the UK -

the company of chairman until December last year and giving its traditional sound a more contemporary edge. The for-mula worked: the band's latest alburn has sold more than 2.5 mil-

Dickins, 48, was also responsible for relaunching Cher's career last year. He put together verses and choruses from several different song- Rob Dickins: new Sony deal writers to create Believe, a song that made her one

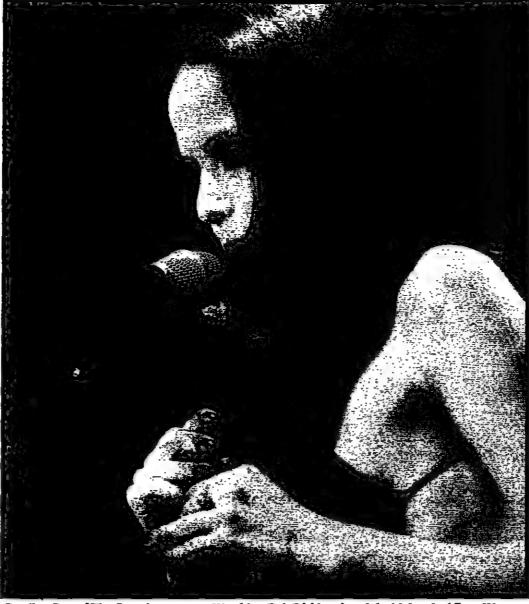
of 1998's biggest-selling artists. But while The Corrs and Cher thrived, Dickins's career suffered and last year, after 14 years as chairman of Warner, his bosses in the US decided not to renew his contract. Dickins found himself having to look for a new job while artists he developed stormed the charts. However, Dickins got his own back this week by announcing a new venture that will put him in direct competition with Warner - a record la-bel called Instant Karma, funded by Sony Music. The label will be jointly owned by Dickins and Sony. The deal comes amid widespread management turmoil in the music industry. The \$10.4 billion merger of PolyGram and Universal has seen many executives either pro-

moted or sacked. Last week EMI shocked the industry by making Eric Nicoli, the former nead of United Biscuits, its new chief executive. Dickins's deal, meanwhile.

thought to be the first of its kind. After all, Sony's usual strategy is to buy stakes in trendy independent record labels, such as Skint (home to Fathoy Slimi, and Creation (home to Oasis). The In-

stant Karma deal turns this strate-

It is understood that Dickins who is also chairman of the music industry's trade body, the British Phonographic Industry, and who sits on the Government's music industry forum with Simply Red's Mick Huckmall - turned down a more lucrative label deal finally offered by Warner. This is hardly surprising. His departure from



Caroline Corr of The Corrs in concert at Wembley. Rob Dickins signed the hit band while at Warners

Warner (where he was paid an estimated £1.1 million a year) came after rows with his US bosses.

The bad feeling began in 1994 when the company offered Dickins the job of running Warner Bros Records in the US, only to withdraw the offer the next day. He says: "I had a choice between a deal with Warner and a deal with Sony. But if I'd taken the Warner deal it would have put me back into the place I'd been for the past 28 years." Dickins refuses to disclose financial details of his deal with Sony,

but it is thought to involve the com-

pany investing tens of millions of pounds in Instant Karma. The label will be launched next month. Instant Karma will initially employ about ten staff, with sales and manufacturing being handled by Sony. Distribution of the label's CDs will be through The Entertainment Network, and a separate company will be set up to control publishing. Although Dickins says he is "in discussions" with several artists, it is not yet clear what musical direction the label will take. Dickins is keen to dampen speculation

ists from Warner Music. Despite Dickins's acerbic sense of humour, his success in the music industry has been attributed largely to his ability to get on with pop stars - even difficult ones.

"It is not the intention to take artists away from other labels," he says. "If they want to come, we would welcome them but most have contracts they cannot get out of." Instant Karma's focus, he says, will be "somewhere between Kate Bush and The Four Tops". He adds, dryly: "I won't be putting a boy band together."

Get set to greet Hello! TV

A TELEVISED version of Hello! magazine may be on our screens shortly, says Marketing Week. The publishers have made a pilot for a programme based on its interviews with celebrities at their homes and have submitted it to ITV, either as a one-off programme or a series. Hello! suffered an 11 per cent fall in circulation last year and its lead over rival OK! is narrowing. A TV show could be a valuable weapon in the circulation battle.

■ THE Direct Marketing Association is split by what Market-ing calls the most damaging row in its seven-year history sparked by its invitation to Mark Bowler, director of media and home shopping for the Royal

board. Some DMA members think Bowler should step down on ground of conflict of interest because the association is negotiating with the Royal Mail over postage rates and commissions. Defenders say that he leaves the

room when the board discusses

Mail, to join its

Royal Mail issues.

■ THE MIRROR is engaged on a "secret Project X" to boost its sales in the regions, according to the Press Gazette. Six Journalists, who had been working on the company's abortive Sporting Life relaunch, have been assigned to produce regionalised editions of The Mirror, which may be accompanied by price cuts. "The project is so secret that those chosen will not know what they are working on until it hap-

■ CHANNEL 5 is defying threats of legal action and going ahead with a poster campaign aimed at spiking ITV's new News at 6.30, reports Media Week. Last week John Hardie, ITV's commercial director, wrote to the channel seeking the withdrawal of ads that claimed the ITV bulletin was stale because it went out a half hour later than the 6pm Channel 5 bulletin.

■ CHANGING FACES: Mark Gallagher from ITV network to be head of public affairs for ITN: former Cable and Wireless PR chief Adrian Moorey becomes corporate communications director for Civil Aviation Authority: Andrew Barnett from HSBC to head public affairs for National Consumer Council (PR Week). David Davies, Editor of Q magazine, made editorial director of Emap's newly launched Heat; Amanda Stevenson, Editor of IPC's Horse, to work on new

project for Emap (Press Gazette). Michael Foster former chief executive of Chris Evans's Ginger TV. joins North-Films (Broadcast).

Cable operator Telewest appoints Philip Jansen from Dunlop Slazenger as group market-ing director (Media Week).

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: DFS Northern Upholstery moves most of its £30 million ad account to Young & Rubicam: Initiative Media wins European and Middle East media plan-ning and buying for Calvin Klein; BT set to appoint Barra-clough Hall Woolston Grey to handle publicity for change in phone numbers (Campaign). BMP OMD wins E5 million media strategy and buying account for Eurotunnel: Procter & Gamble to institute women's art prize worth £20,000 plus in relaunch of Oil of Ulay (Marketing Week). Del Monte picks Bozell network for £5 million European campaign to put new life into the Man from Del Monte (Marketing).

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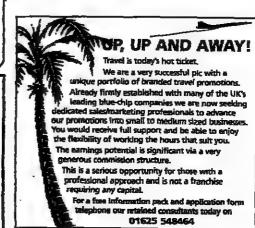
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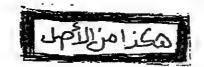


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The Porter Four: from left, Lori D'Angelo, Cara Rubinsky, Shawn Armbrust and Thomas McCann. The story of their investigation seems likely to be made into a Hollywood film

Snatched from death's door

t was a journalism course with a difference. Four students were assigned to investigate the case of a man on death row, convicted of double murder. who had come within two days of being executed by the state of Illinois. But the students, Thomas McCann, Lori D'Angelo, Cara Rubinsky and Shawn Armbrust, were warned by their professor that the inmate could be dead by Christmas.

Six months later. 44-yearold Anthony Porter is alive k nome on the South Side of Chicago, a walking indictment of a criminal justice system that wrongfully imprisoned him for 17 years and would probably have killed him but for the efforts of McCann and friends. The students are now celebrities. Their scoop came thanks partly to their tenacity and partly to Professor David Protess, a driven mentor whose investigative journalism course at Northwestern University has become the unofficial vanguard of the state's anti-death

penalty movement. Since forcing the 1996 freeing of four black Chicago men wrongly sentenced to death for murder. Protess has received up to four letters a day from convicted inmates seeking him out as a de facto appeals court of last resort. If the available evidence looks flimsy, he may follow up, assigning cases to his undergraduate students on

a first-come, first-served basis. Now Protess's latest proteges are exhausted. The media attention has been endless. CBS filmed much of their investigation. NBC has re-creAnthony Porter was just days away from execution when four journalism students took up his case. Giles Whittell reports

cago press has been playing catch-up throughout. The story began one August

night in 1982 when a young black man and his girlfriend were shot in the head after an argument about drugs beside a swimming pool in Chicago's Washington Park. The park, 40 minutes from Northwestem's leafy Evansion campus. is fringed by some of the bleakest and most dan housing projects in America.

Confronted by the dead bodies of Jerry Hillard and Mari-Green, police went straight for Porter. He had a reputation as a troublemaker and an IQ of 51. "He was a thug with a rap sheet and the cops were after him for every crime in the neighbourhood." says McCann. "They thought, 'If we can get him we'll be doing everyone a favour"."

They got him easily enough. finding two men prepared to identify him as the murderer, even though Porter swore that he was never at the pool that night. Convicted after a short trial, he was sentenced to death without his original lawyer present because his family had failed to come up with the \$10,000 required.

For the next 17 years the only challenges mounted against his conviction were based on claims that he was mentally incompetent to stand trial. This may have been true, but there were also what D'Angelo calls "blatant contradictions" in the court record, including a claim by a crucial prosecution witness that Porter shot with his left hand even

though he is right-handed. Unusually, there was even an affidavit from the mother of one of the victims pointing to another man. Alstory Simon, as the culprit.

"It was pathetically obvious that someone else did it," says McCann, shaking his head. But nothing was obvious when the four began piecing to-

Rubinsky watched. The witnesses said that Porter ran the long way out of the pool's fenced grounds after the shooting, when his obvious escape route would have been through an exit yards from where the bodies lay. They also claimed to have identified him at midnight from a distance at which McCann and

was alleged to have been.



Anthony Porter on his release after 17 years on death row

last September. All they knew was that ten days earlier he had been in a death-watch cell. 48 hours from a lethal injection, when an appeals court stayed the execution pending a review of his mental competence.

About six weeks into their autumn term The Porter Four (they laugh at the team name) went to Washington Park to re-enact the crime. McCann played one of the key witnesses, D'Angelo the other. Armbrust put herself where Porter nothing in broad daylight.

The group traced Alstory Simon to Milwaukee, a short drive north of Chicago and Armbrust's home town. She and Rubinsky visited him in mid-December for an informal interview, catching him in a state of selective amnesia. "He would oscillate between remembering nothing and re-membering details that he could have known only if he was there," says Armbrust,

leased into the arms of his student saviours last month, in front of Chicago's imposing

Two days later McCann

went to see William Taylor,

the only surviving witness to

have incriminated Porter. He

went with Paul Cioling, a hulk-

ing private detective who often

works gratis with Protess's stu-

dents. The combination worked Taylor signed an affi-davit recanting his entire trial

testimony, and McCann ran

to a payphone to tell the profes-

tor. Protess has a remutation

for intensity and duly "started

screaming with excitement for

By the time Armbrust went

home for Christmas she was-

dreaming about the case, she

says. She spent much of the

holiday sifting through police

and court records in Milwau-

kee, where Inez Jackson.

son agreed to be videotaped at

Armbrust's home identifying

After their crash course in

the flaws of American justice.

the students took their tape not

to the authorities, but to CBS

The next day Ciolino dropped

In on Simon to remind him

that he could save an innocent

man by doing the right thing. Finally, after seeing Jackson on television, he confessed.

The fallout from Simon's

confession has barely begun.

As an ecstatic Porter was re-

Simon as the murderer.

maybe three minutes".

ior officials began squirming - and with good reason. Since reinstating the death penalty in 1976, Illinois has executed 11 inmates and freed 11, giving it, in Protess's words, "a 50-50 error rate" -- or worse, since he is convinced that at least one of those executed was demonstrably innocent.

Mainstream journalism has not distinguished itself either, in the students' eyes. "The media simply won't devote the re-sources for this kind of work." Protess says, "Most of what passes for journalism nowadays is reporters picking the phone and talking to politicians and celebrities, rather than going into the real world

and talking to real people." This summer D'Angelo will work as an intern at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. McCann will go to the Cincinnati Inquirer. Rubinsky and Arm-brust have not decided yet.

Meanwhilethe calls have been coming in from Hollywood. "Hundreds of them," Armbrust says.

Pipped at the post — again

IPC has beaten Cabal to two new magazine launches. Is this just coincidence, asks Naomi Marks

plans

to the

of rivals'

ess. Failures are not only expensive, but there is also a fair amount of face to be lost. For a young compa-ny with a high public profile the stakes are even higher. So when Cabal Communi-

cations, set up last summer by the magazine supremo Sally O'Sullivan, announced an indefinite delay in the launch of Crime Weekly - aimed at filling a niche in the women's sector some at Cabal were irritated. The announce-

ment came soon after a bigger publisher revealed that it was launching a one-shot, Chat Crime & Passion, to test the same niche that Cabal had spotted. That the rival was IPC, which O'Sullivan had left to go it alone

after failing in her manage-ment buyout bid. added to the irritation.

But news came that launch another spinning out of en's weekly Chat but this time dealing with health, that irritation turned to

downright annoyance. Chat Get Fit & Fab went on sale earlier this week - just as the first issues of Good Health, under Cabal's ownership, hit the streets. It seemed as if something was up. especially as Cabal is believed to have secured the purchase of Good Health over IPC because the title's former owner was said to have been impressed by Cabal's "entrepreneurial

attitude".

Linda Lancaster-Gaye the managing director of IPC's women's group, says the fact that its two Chat specials appeared just before Cabal's launches is an absolute coincidence. The ideas for the launches, she says, came out of IPC's 14,000-strong panel of women's magazine readers, now its main research weapon. Results showed that more than a third had been robbed, burgled or mugged.

[Crime] is an area that

aunching a magazine they are very interested in," can be a traught procstrategy is to focus on such areas, see how they sell and then assess how often we might want to bring them to

Chat Get Fit & Fab also sprang from this research method, as will 23 more planned specials this year.

O'Sullivan, recently reported as saying that IPC was "on a mission to destroy us", is sticking to the same "coincidence" line as Lancaster-Gaye over the timing of Chat Crime & Passion. although she notes that 18 months ago, when she was at IPC, the company decided a crime-for-women title was a non-starter: "It was interesting to see them take always thought it was a

good idea." And of the fact that IPC has announced a mantailor our haul, putting in management structure, she says: "I'm sure that's a coinciactivities dence, too." There seem to

be some interest-

ing dynamics be-

tween IPC and its former employee. But O'Sullivan does not want, at least publicly. to speak of David and Goliath-style battles: don't think we'd even rate on the David scale."

Cahal. which launched with £2.2 million in private backing, now has five titles. Front. The Real Homes Magazine, Good Health, Maximum Moun-

tain Bike and Procycling.

O'Sullivan, the former editor of Good Housekeening among others, remains unbeat. She says the company is on course to fulfil its target of 12 launches in its first year. Crime Weekly, she says, will make an appearance, though she is not sure

"Our plans are not and never will be, tailored to the activities of another publishing house," she says. "We are just driven by the necessity of producing the very best magazines."

TIMES

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GHANGING TIMES

The F-word that hit the big time

DON KING wasn't the only winner in Madison Square Garden. While we wait to see if Lennox Lewis can overturn the injustice done to him in court or in the ring. Stephen Marks, the founder of French Connection, knows that he is on to a winner.

It was Marks, through his ad agency TBWA, that tied up a sponsorship deal with Lewis in December. In return for a reported £1.5 million (it was considerably less). Lewis agreed to wear French Connection's controversial "fcuk" logo on his shorts for the fight and in his training sessions. For Marks, the sight of Lewis at the weigh-in must almost have been better then the fight itself. But his eyes would not have been on Lewis's impressive torso, Instead, he could not have failed to notice "fcuk" resplendent

on Lewis's ever-present ski hat. The only question is whether the French Connection chain stocked enough ski hats in the weeks ahead of the fight. Since the launch of the fcuk campaign two years ago. French Connection's fortunes have been transformed. At the end of its first year, group profits were up 32 per cent and UK retail and wholesale profits up 72 per cent. UK sales were up a further 10 per cent in the most recent half-yearly results. There was a 21.5 per cent rise in group turnover. The company is opening new stores and franchises and the campaign is set to turn its fortunes around in the US. There, as here, the campaign is set to excite controversy.

And French Connection does not pretend any different. How could it when it has run rings around the Advertising Standards Authority defending itself successfully against the charge that fcuk "brings advertising into disrepute". Fouk is the strongest evidence around that advertising is no longer just about creating a beautiful TV commercial and supporting it with press and poster ads.

In fact all the distinctions between marketing disciplines that the industry clings on to in order to justify the status quo are entirely irrelevant to the late 1990s consumer. It's something TBWA's high-profile creative director, Trevor Beattie, has long understood. Think of the way he and his clients have exploited both free editorial coverage and integrated advertising, and packaging design for French Connection, Pretty Polly and Wonderbra. When consumers see fcuk on Lewis's shorts or hat, they don't think that's a clever piece of sponsorship, it's simply an ad. Make the imagery surrounding it cool enough and 1990s consumers will happily wear your ad for you. That's how "my place now", "Sub-liminal advErtising eXperiment", "I

"night all long", to-gether with the fcuk logo, have led to some 300,000 campaign T-shirt sales. The ad industry has never liked the campaign - partly because Beattie is a love-hate figure and because fcuk is just a simple wordplay. That said, some of the greatest cam-paigns in British ad

history relied on a Lewis: headgear that says it all Hits. All this goes on wordplay. and the fcuk poster campaign has been the most noticeable of the past two

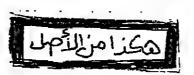
The genius is its simplicity. And there's luck. For instance, the Lennox connection came about because Beattie knows Lewis's manager. Frank Maloney. Beattle is a boxing mut who recently landed Muhammad Ali for an Equitable Life campaign. However, he has been too dismayed by the draw verdict to enjoy fcuk's success.

■ IT WAS Billy Connolly who described charity fatigue as "bollocks" during the recent Red Nose Day fundraising event. This week saw the launch of a new campaign that strikes at the heart of our ability to turn a blind

eye to those who need help. The new NSPCC commercial from Saatchi & Saatchi highlights the idea of covering our eyes when confronting distress. It features a teddy bear, an Action Man, a poster of Alan Shearer, and all the Spice Girls on the cover of Smash

to a soundtrack of adults being unbearably cruel to chil-dren. We don't see any shocking images. There is no blood or bruises or cowering children. And the ad is all the more powerful for it. The juxtaposition of such familiar icons with the notion of them covering their eyes is as disturbing an ìdea as you'll ever see in an ad.

Stefano Hatfield is Editor of Campaign



Permitting contraventions

Nuttall v Vehicle Inspector-

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn and Lord Hobbouse of Woodbor-

[Speeches March [8]

"Permitting" contraventions of drivers' hours rules meant failing to take reasonable steps to prevent contraventions, and failure by an employer to examine tachograph charts could amount to a prima facie case of permutting contraven-

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by the defendant. Shane Raylond Nunall, trading as Redline Chaches, from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justive McCowan and Mr Justice Popplewelli (The Times April 30, 1997 RTR 32I), which had allowed an appeal by case stated by the prosecuior, the Vehicle Inspectorate, from

The justices had acquitted the detendant on 16 charges under sec-tion 96(IIA) of the Road Transport Act 1968, as inserted by section 4(1) of and paragraph 9(2)(a) of Sched-ule 4 to the European Communities Act 1972 and amended by sec-tion 2(1)(c), (e) and (f) of the Road Traffic (Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work) Act 1976, sections 38 and 4o of the Criminal Justice Act 1982 and regulation 2 of the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations (SI 1986)

Regulation 2 of the 1986 Regula-

Where, in the case of a driver of Britain a contravention of any requirement of the applicable Community rules as to periods of driv-ing or distance driven, or periods on or olf duty, then the offender

In re Ratcliffe, deceased

Before Mr Justice Blackburne

Where a restator bequeathed resid-

uary estate as to one-half to two non-charitable beneficiaries and

the remainder on trust for four

charities in equal shares, the two

half shares of residue were to be culculated after providing for debis

and luneral and testamentary ex-

penses but before payment of the

the non-charitable beneficiaries

nheritance tax due in respect of

Mr Justice Blackburne so held

in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on the applica-

tion of the executors and trustees of Marjorie Beryl Ratcliffe, deceased,

Judgment February 19]

fender's employer or a person to whose orders the offender was sublect) who caused or permitted the contrevntion shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine ..."

Mr Timothy King, QC and Mr Mark Laprell for the defendant: Mr Jonathan Foster, QC and Mr Paul O'Brien for the prosecutor.

LORD STEYN said that the case concerned the owner of a coach business who had decided not to examine charts produced by tachographs installed in his vehithereby disabling himself from discovering a series of drivers' hours offences committed by

A rachoeraph was recording ment that had the ability to record time, speed, distance travelled and work a driver was engaged on, It was a valuable aid in the promotion of road safety.

The charges against the defend-ant had been based on provisions of Council Regulation EEC 3820/85 (OJ 1985 L370/1) which laid down periods, breaks and rest periods.
As an operator of vehicles the de-lendant also had to comply with the requirements of Council Regu-lation EEC 3821/85 (OJ 1985 L370/8) which provided for the installation, maintenance and use of recording equipment or tachographs in vehicles.

The justices had found that if the defendant had examined the charts he would have realised that the drivers had contravened the re-

But they had accepted that he had not examined them. In the case stated, explaining their rea-sons for dismissing the charges. they had said, inter alia:

"The defendant could not have
the necessary knowledge to be

seeking the determination of ques-

tions relating to the construction of the will and of section 41 of the In-

By clause 4 of her will the testa-

tor bequeathed the residue of her

estate, after payment of usual ex-

penses. "as to the one-half part

thereof for |the first and second de-

fendants in equal shares absolute-ly ... and as to the remainder of my

te upon trust for [the third to

Mr Michael Johnson for the

plaintiff: Mr Nicholas Warren, QC

and Ms Emily Campbell for the first and second detendants; Ms So-

nla Proudman, QC and Mr Tom

MR JUSTICE BLACKBURNE

Dumont for the four charities.

heritance Tax Act 1984.

sixth defendants|...'

and any other person (being the offailure to check the tachograph charts _ [He] had no reason to examine closely the _ charts in the light of events at that time. The evidence before us did not lead us to find beyond a reasonable doubt that The did act recklessly or close his eyes to events."

Mr Justice Popplewell had said that the facts found by the justices supported a finding that the defendant had been reckless or had shut his eyes to what was occurring. The defendant submitted that the Divisional Court had imper-

missibly blurred the distinction be-

Depending on the context, "permit" was capable of bearing a narrow meaning of assenting or agree-ing to or a wider meaning of not taking reasonable steps to prevent something in one's power.

The latter best matched the present context, the manifest purpose of the Community rules being to place a responsibility on an em-ployer of drivers to use tachograph records to prevent contraventions and promote road safety. The contextual meaning of "permitting" in section 96(11A) of the 1968 Act was failing to take reasonable steps to prevent contraventions by drivers. The offence was not one of strict or absolute liability. Nothing less than wilfulness or recklessness

would be sufficient. In practice recklessness would be the relevant mens rea. If the defendant's state of mind was one of not caring whether a contraven-tion of the rules took place that would generally be sufficient to es-

Mr King had submitted that the prosecution had to prove at least that the defendant had had knowledge that the contravention was likely to occur, but his Lordebin likely to occur, but his Lordship would not accept that qualification in the present context.

said that the half share of residue

to which the four charities were en-

ritled was exempt from the tax. The half share of residue to which the

first and second defendants were to-

Were the two half shares to be

calculated after providing for the debts and expenses but before pay-ment of inheritance tax due in re-

ant's half share, so that the net ben-

efit received by them would be less,

through having suffered deduction of tax, than the net benefit received

by the four charities: the gross divi-

sion approach? Or were they to be equal half shares of net residue af-

ter deduction of the appropriate

amount of inheritance tax: the net

gether entitled was not.

One had to take into account that the objective of section 96(IIA) and the applicable Community rules was to protect road users. By ignoring tachograph records an employer took the risk that that conduct might imperil the safety of the public.

in the circumstances, if apart from proof of a series of contraventions by drivers the only evidence was an explanation by the employer that he had not examined the records over the relevant period. the case was capable of amounting to a prima facie case of failing to take reasonable steps to prevent contraventions in the state of mind of not caring whether they took place or not

But a prima facie case could be rebutted, for example, if an employ-er gave evidence that he had taken some other precautions to prevent

The justices had erred in concluding that the defendant had had no reason to check the tachograph charts. He had been obliged to perform periodic checks of them.

But the Divisional Court had

gone too far in directing the justices as to convict. It was for the justices to consider the facts, and it had been for them to decide whether the defendant's evidence that he had relied on the scheduling of vehicles could rebut a prima facie case of recklessness. The direction to convict should

be set aside and the case should be returned to the justices for a retrial. Lord Signn agreed with Lord Steyn, Lord Jaunoey agreed with Lord Steyn and Lord Nicholls. Lord Nicholls delivered an opinion agreeing with Lord Hobbouse. Lord Hobbouse delivered an opin-ion concurring in allowing the ap-

Solicitors: Backhouses, Black-burn; Dooley & Co, Liverpool.

Calculating residue of estate The latter was the result reached in In re Benham's Will Trusts

(1995) STC 210). In his Lordship's view, the gross division approach was correct. An equal division of disposable residefendants and the four charities tributable to the first and second defendants' half share was to be borne by that share: to subject the charities' half share to any part of that burden was prohibited by section 41(b) of the 1984 Act.

His Lordship was unable to find any principle in Benham's Will Trusts and would not follow it. Solicitors: Jubb Longbothams, Halifax: Paisner & Co; Campbell Hooper, Victoria.

Recovering receiver's costs

In re Andrews frauds. In the course of subsequent proceedings some £32,294 had been released by the receiver from Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justhe receivership order. tice Aklous and Lord Justice Ward the selzed money, to pay Thomas's (Judgment February 25)

Where there had been no default On December 11, 1995 Daniel by the prosecution, a receiver's was convicted but Thomas was accosts of the receivership under a requitted of all charges and an order was made that his costs be paid out straint order under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 could be recovered of central funds. from the property subject to the or-

legal costs.

Even where the prosecution had

failed in its entirety, the High Court did not have power to order

that the prosecutor reimburse the

defendant whose property had been subject to the order.

missing the appeal of Thomas Charles Andrews from the dismiss-

al by Mr Justice Owen on October

5, 1997 for the payment by the Cus-toms and Excise of the fees, charg-

es, dishursements, expenses and all other costs of a receiver appoint-ed by Mr. Justice Schiernann under

a restraint order pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act 1988 on July 7,

Section 89 of the 1988 Act pro-

"(I) If proceedings are instituted

against a person for an offence or offences to which this part of the

Act applies and ... (a) the proceedings do not result in his conviction

for any offence ... the High Court may, on application by a person who held property which was real-

isable property, order compensa-tion to be paid to the applicant if,

having regard to the circumstances, it considers it appropriate to make such an order.

der compensation to be paid in any case unless the court is satisfied (a)

there has been some serious de-fault on the part of a person con-

cerned in the investigation or prose-cution of the offence ... and (b) that

the applicant has suffered loss in consequence of anything done in re-

lation to the property by or in pur-suance of ... an order under this

Mr Victor Joffe for the appel-

lant: Mr Andrew Mitchell, QC, for

the Commissioners of Customs

LORD JUSTICE WARD said

Thomas Andrews and his son Dan-

iel had been arrested by Customs and Excise and charged with val-

ue-added tax offences.

Customs and Excise had seized

£42,305 from Thomas's home and

applied ex parte against both fa-ther and son for restraint and

charging orders over their realisa-

ble property.
The realisable assets included

the seized money, a property owned by Thomas and his wife

and 56 heavy duty transport vehi-

cles owned by companies which

"(2) The High Court shall not or-

The Court of Appeal so held dis-

1997 of his summons dated June

The restraint order against Thomas was discharged in January 1996. His solicitors subsequently realised that the receiver had retained the balance of the seized sum, £10,011. When asked to return it, the receiver said the bal-ance had been used to defray the

prior costs of receivership.

The case boiled down to this question: A receiver and manager properly appointed properly recovered her properly incurred costs of the receivership from an asset she had received. Now that the receiv ership had been discharged, should those costs of the receivership lie where they fell?

There was no reported authority on the question, although the fol-lowing principles seemed capable of being stated: 1 A receiver or manager appointed by the court was an officer of the court, not an agent of either party

in the proceedings.

2 Receivers must look for their indemnity to the assets which were under the court's control. 3 Unless any part of the receiver's remmeration could be treated as "costs" no question of discretion

gave him a continuing right to possession even after the discharge of

In the instant case, there was an agreement between the receiver and Customs and Excise that the latter would indemnify her if she were unable to bring in sufficient assets to meet her costs. That mirrored the statutory position under section 88(2) of the 1988 Act.

His Lordship found it intrinsicalofair that the applicant should be indemnified in the crown court but not in the Queen's Bench Division where the proceedings should stand or fall with the criminal proceedings.

But if the costs of the receiver

ship were to be costs of and inciden tal to the proceedings and thus in the court's discretion by section 51(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981. then the costs of the receivership should be costs of the proceedings at all stages of those proceedings and in all events:

The true position was that the investigation of whether or not the defendant had suffered loss by reason of the receivership was an in-vestigation which should be and or-dinarily would be conducted in deciding whether or not damages should be awarded against the dainniff for breach of the usual undertaking as to damages a plaintiff would normally be required to

Such an investigation would ena-ble justice to be done. In the instant case no undertaking was given

section 89 provided the defendant with the only relief to which Parlia-ment thought he was entitled. There was no suggestion that the Customs and Excise officers had been guilty of any default in their investigation or prosecution of the offences. Section 89 simply did not

provide an adequate remedy. His Lordship was, with unfeigned reluctance, compelled to conclude that even if the expenses of the receivership were within the definition of costs they were not costs "of and incidental to the proceedings. They must lie where they fell. The appeal would be dis-

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS agreed. On the facts of the case, the applicant might seem to have been treated unfairly as his £10,000 was used up as an expense of the receivership and therefore could not be

In his Lordship's view that was the result of the type of proceedings and the conditions for recovery laid down in the ACL

Parliament had specifically limited the reight to recover from a re-ceiver to cases where negligence

In his Lordship's judgment the claim was really a claim for com-pensation dressed up as an applica-tion for an award of costs. Section 89 was the proper avenue for the

Lord Justice Hirst agreed. Solicitors: Goldkorn Davies Matthias; Solicitor, Customs and

Appointing guardian ad litem

In re J (a Minor) (Adoption: Appointment of guardian ad

Before Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Ward. Judgment March 101

In contested adoption proceedings the appointment of a guardian ad litem was entirely a matter within the discretion of the judge. There was no reason to upset a decision to appoint a person who was inde-pendent and unbiased but who had long been involved in the case. The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an application by the mother of a boy aged eight for leave to appeal against the appointment made by Judge Kenny in Reading County Court of the guardian ad litem in proceedings as free her san for adoption

a) free her son for adoption. Mr Allan Levy, QC and Mrs Constance Whippman for the mother; Miss Gillian Brasse for the local authority; Mr Andrew

McFarlane, QC, for the guardian LORD JUSTICE WARD said

that in 1996 a care order was made in respect of the boy. In 1999, pro-ceedings were launched to free him for adoption. The mother sought the dis-

charge of the appointment of Mrs A as guardian ad litem. The allegation was that because Mrs A had participated in a meeting at which adoption was discussed, she was, or gave an appearance of being so biased that she was incapable property of discharging her duties un-der the Adoption Act 1976 and the Adoption Rules (SI 1984 No 265) to safeguard the best interests of the child and to perform her duti

Judge Kenny found that Mrs A had not displayed any bias, had been extremely sympathetic to the mother on many occasions, had im-mense knowledge of the case and was the right person to be guardian ad litem to the boy.

Mr Levy conceded that the appointment of a guardian ad litern was a matter within the judge's discretion but that that discretion was fencred. He drew the court's attention to a number of practice guides.

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Guidance for Guardians ad Litem and Reporting Officers (HMSO (1992) which together spelt out, he said the world for true later. said, the need for true independ-

His submission was that the guardian had to be independent, to be seen to be independent, to come to the case without preconceived ideas and without any prior in-

His Lordship said there was no error in the judge's approach to the case. As for his exercise of discretion, far from there being anything plainly wrong with it, the advan-tages of having this guardian involved, for the reasons of her familiarity with the case and with the boy, were so overwhelmingly in fayour of her continuing that there was no possible prospect of success in the application.

Lord Justice Nourse gave a con-Solicitors: Ms Beverley Golden,

Southampton; Mr. David Over, Reading; Hodders, High Wy-

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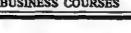
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Sir Tony Wrigley is due to vacate the office of Master on 30 September 2000, and the Governing Body wishes to elect his successor as soon as is convenient to all parties. A confidential list of names of men and women is being assembled for consideration, and suggestions for inclusion in the list will be gratefully received. Persons with suggestions to contribute are invited to communicate in writing with the Senior Fellow (Dr. M.K. Tanner, Corpus Christi College, CB2 1FI-I). who will supply information concerning the Mastership on request.



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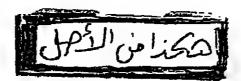
Rachel Morris

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THE TIMES

EDUCATION



A classical upbringing: American research suggests that a baby can benefit by exposure to the music of Mozart and other great composers

atic' Music and brain power

he newest music craze to hit America does not rely on teen-agers, clubbers, or even pop acts yet is so hot that Sony Music's attempt to capitalise on it will produce 100,000 CDs this year. What makes this even more unlikely is that the target audience comprises newborn infants.

By teaming up with Sony to guarantee each child born in state hospitals a free copy of the music disc Bulld Your Baby's Brain Through The Power of Music, Zell Miller, Georgia's Governor, joins the growing number of parents expressing interest in the potential effects of classical music

on the newly born. gesting that listening to classi-cal music can increase logic and mathematics abilities in infants, Governor Miller contacted Sony and began the CD giveaway last summer. The disc includes selections by Bach, Beethoven and Mozart.

The idea that prolonged listening to classical music can enhance brain development. dubbed the Mozart Effect, has been the subject of much recent research, in America and Europe. Parents who hope to "improve intelligence", as one advertisement puts it, can now choose from an array of products including CDs, interactive videos, and instructional books. One Internet company. Genius Babies, offers a variety of "developmental toys and products" to stimulate infant brains, including Baby Mozart, a video that Genius BaEvidence that classical music boosts a child's ability to reason is growing. John Elderkin reports

who.do not. Dr Gordon Shaw

of the University of California

at Irvine has demonstrated

that pre-schoolers who learn

improve their spatial reason-

says that his work with pro-

foundly handicapped infants leaves no doubt that "one-year-olds respond to music.

and learn to make musical

choices that serve as communi-

cation tools". In effect, these

children's language skills are

enhanced by exposure to mu-

None of this settles the issue

of whether merely listening to

classical music can increase a

person's intelligence. The most

persuasive evidence comes from Dr Shaw's 1993 study

that generated most of this con-

College students there were

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ete McPhail, a music

consultant for Sound-

about, a music thera-

py service in Oxford;

ing abilities noticeably.

bies claims can "increase brain capacity". Rhino Records in California also offers specialities, including Baby Tunes: Mozart for Ba-bies, which features babyfriendly instruments and arrangements" featuring gentle

Don Campbell, author of two books on the Mozart Effect and purveyor of CDs with. names like Tune Up Your Mind and Mozart in Motion, takes the long view. His advertisements cite disproportionately high numbers of musimedical schools, and claim that "the very best engineers and technical designers in the Silicon Valley industry are, nearly without exception, prac-

Most psychologists agree that music stimulates newborn children. An Irish study claimed to show that babies can recognise specific music while in the womb. But there is no conclusive evidence on . what effect this has on developing minds. Researchers have demonstrated that a child's ability to reason, listen and, in effect, learn, develops rapidly until age six, then levels off. The more stimulation a young brain receives, the more it "develops", and therefore the higher the child's intelligence, or so the argument goes.

Suggestions that classical music, with its combinations

given spatial reasoning tests afof stirring and calming effects within complex and simple structures, is an ideal stimulus ter listening to either ten minutes of Mozart's Piano Sonata for young minds, seem to fit easily within this line of rea-K448 or ten minutes of silence.

The Mozart group scored better than the silence group.

The next study tested study soning. Schools in Britain and America report that if students listen to classical music before dents after they listened to Molessons, there are fewer discizart, but this time the second pline problems. As a group, children who study music group listened to rock music. The Mozart group again score higher on standardised showed improvement. intelligence tests than children

Dr Frances Rauscher, a psychologist who worked with Dr Shaw, says that these results were misconstrued by many to suggest that only classical mued hate mail and even threats from rock 'n' rollers. According to The Washing-

ton Times, a Virginia high school student tried to replicate this study with mice. He exposed one group to hard rock music for ten hours a day for three weeks while testing the rodents' ability to navigate a maze. Another group of mice, exposed to classical music, actually increased their maze performance, while the hard rock mice killed and cannibalised each other. At that stage, the experiment was brought to a halt. Dr Susan Hallam of Lon-

don's Institute of Education believes that music can stimulate children emotionally, perhaps putting them in a relaxed state of mind that might explain higher test scores. But she does not agree that the human

brain is pre-wired to function better with exposure to classical music. In 1996 she divided 8,000 British children into three sets similar to the University of California study. Before spatial reasoning tests, one set listened to Mozart, a second to

oral instructions and a third to Blur and Oasis. The Blur-Oasis group scored slightly higher than the others, but no significant differences appeared. Perhaps a generation of mathematical geniuses will one day emerge to settle the issue.

LINKS

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Can Whitehall run 24,000 schools?

rofessor Tim Brighouse, teachers' guru and inspirational chief educa-tion officer of Birmingham, let it be known this week that he would be resigning from the Government's standards task force. The decision will be a blow to David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, who is already struggling to convince teachers that he has their best interests at heart. But what difference will it make in the classroom?

The resignation has been interpreted as the result of an inevitable clash of personalities between Professor Brighouse and Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, The pair had been appointed

joint vice-chairmen of the task force to embody the Government's promised combination of "pressure and support" to raise standards in schools.

Clashes there certainly have been. Professor Brighouse accused Mr Woodhead's Ofsted agency of "conducting a reign of terror; the Chief Inspector has responded in kind several times. Professor Brighouse ac-knowledged yesterday that he and Mr Woodhead had "disagreed about practically every-thing", but the suspicion remains that the resignation has more to do with a feeling that he was wasting his time.

The task force was established in a blaze of publicity almost two years ago, part of Mr Blunkett's promise to transform the Department for Education and Employment into an "evangelist" force to spread best practice among schools. The Education Secretary chose to chair the committee himself, peppering the membership with well-known classroom practitioners. But what has the body actually achieved?

There have been regular meetings, including a weekend session at Windsor, and subcommittees have been formed. But nothing has ever been published and its workings remain a mystery to outsiders. Perhaps the opposing philosophies of Professor Brighouse and Mr Woodhead have produced a stalemate, but the impression has been created of

an ineffectual talking shop.

Cries of "told you so" must be echoing around Whitehall, as teachers' leaders queue up to remind ministers that they said from the start that the harnessing of opposites would never work. Many saw the appointments as a means of preventing a damaging public feud between two senior government advisers, neither of whom has spoken with much enthusiasm about the work

The deafening silence that has surrounded the task force contrasts sharply with the rest of the DfEE's evangelist mission. Strategies and targets have tumbled out of the department with a regularity that has alarmed many head teachers. Almost 200 civil servants and secondees from the world of education have changed the relationship between schools and Government. Primary schools, in particular, are now subject to more detailed prescription in mathematics and English than Mr Blunkett's predecessors ever dreamt possible.

Criticism of such interventionism has be-come the Tories' main avenue of attack in education debates, David Willetts, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, constantly urges Mr Blunkett to leave teachers to exercise some professionalism, accusing him of ever-increasing centralism. It is a charge that is difficult to refute, but ministers appear confident that parents will back them while their efforts are obviously directed towards raising standanik.

Time will tell whether central directive is more successful than local initiative and what the impact will be on teacher recruitment. Critics argue that talented graduates

will be even less likely to join a profession where their room for manoeuvre is so limited, but it may be that the absence of effective classroom guidelines has in the past acted as a discouragement.

Professor Brighouse is maintaining a dis-creet silence on where he stands in this de-bate, but it is noticeable that he is also resigning from the Government's task force on educational development. He insisted yesterday that his motivation was the need to devote more time to Birmingham, but his approach in the city has been very different from the Government's. He wrote a series of articles on the teaching of reading, for example, but stopped short of telling teachers to use phonics, the cornerstone of the Government's liter-

Like the orginal concept of combining pressure and support, there is a fine line to be drawn between spreading effective classroom practice and trying to control 24,000 schools from Whitchall. John Dunford, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said last week that he hoped the literacy strategy was not too successful, or ministers would want to direct teaching in all subjects. He was only half-joking.

Just make it wicked

Children want a sophisticated read, says Rachel Morris

eally, it's enough to make a mother weary. As the parent of any ten-year-old will tell you. we are in the season of educational pan-ic. The results of tests for independent schools are due; and at the end of May every Year 6 child in the country must endure the SATS (the Government's standard assessment tests). The school tells us that the SATS are not important but the children know better. If the SATS don't matter, why have they been revising for them since September? And now, to add to my weariness,

agazine has landed on my desk. JAM, "the first educational magazine for eight to 11-year-olds", as the press re-lease describes it, is said to be filling a gap in the market, although this gap is not very apparent, because the shelves in our local bookshop are groaning with educational books for children, the shelves in our Apple dealer's shop are loaded with more of the same and I cannot find anything in our local toy shop that does not claim to have an educational purpose. I tried out JAM on half a dozen nine

and ten-year-olds, three boys and three girls, half of them fairly academic and half of them not. All thought it a bit on the thin side for £1.95 and that it looks like the freebie magazines they are giv-en at school by a well-meaning but dull local authority. The more academically inclined were happy to do the quizzes and the boys quite liked the articles on planets and electricity, although the girls groaned at the babyish story.

But when I handed it to the less aca-



Rachel Morris and some of the magazine's target audience

the cover (which asked them to practise their mathematics and English skills), then flipped through it in a polite but bored way. They all told me that it wasn't wicked (by which they mean not stylish, not glossy and especially not ngerous enough

And that is the problem. These are children who can reach the highest levels on the PlayStation (ask a ten-year-old the significance of this) who can perform grinds on the pavement (again consult a ten-year-old) and who can glide on Rollerblades like birds.

All their lives they have been wooed by manufacturers selling the latest high-tech equipment. For these chil-

demic children, they took one look at dren, fashion is something to die for, and they think that they can lead deeply stylish lives without knowing the first thing about dividing fractions.

It is going to take more than a Blue

Peter-ish magazine to enchant these children with education. But then, as all of them said, JAM is aimed not at them but at me. Would I buy it? Quite possibly, although I doubt that it will make much difference to their educational achievements. At this minute, four of my guinea-pigs are performing jumps on their Rollerblades, while two are gigeling over a bad film version of Jane Eyre. One way or another, most tenyear-olds these days are far more sophis-ticated than we think.



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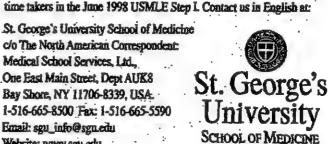
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The Council of the Girls' Day School Trust invites applications for the post of Chief Executive Officer to become vacant on the retirement of Michael Oakley at the end of 1999, after 16 years' service. The GDST is the largest group of independent schools in the UK with

19,500 pupils in 25 schools in England and Wales. The Trust employs over 3,000 staff, of whom 50 work in the Trust Office. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing the policy of the Council and leads the Trust Office team, which undertakes much of the bursarial administration of the schools, provides a range of professional advice to the Council, the Heads and the schook, and manages the capital building programme and the overall financial budget.

The initial salary will be in the region of £30,000, depending on experi To obtain further information about the appointment (including particulars of how to apply), please contact: Mrs V Relf, GDST, 100 Rochester Row, London SW1P 1JP. Fax 0171 393 6789.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday, 14th April 1999.



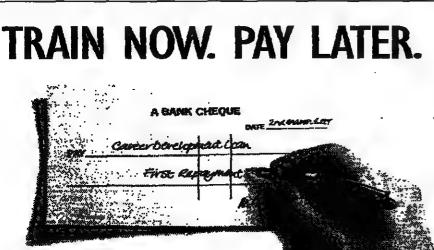
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Lowery puts on style around the greens

STEVE LOWERY, an amiable journeyman professional who ambles along the fairways with a permanent grin on his face, gave an immaculate display of putting in the opening round of the Bay Hill Invitational and Colin Montgomerie had a ringside seat as he did so. As Lowery holed putts from all over the place on his way to a 67, Montgomerie, one of Lowery's playing partners, had to grit his teeth and accept that the putts disappearing from view for Lowery will not do the same for him.

uble

Montgomerie, playing in the first group of the day, admits that it is a long time since he putted well. Last week, at a tournament just down the coast, he was accurate from tee to green and averaged 32 or 33 putts for each round. It was more of the same yesterday when, if anything. Montgomerie was even more accurate but could not convert this into anything better than a one-under-par 71.

On a glorious morning, with little or no wind and a temperature in the low eighties. Montgomerie, Lowery and Neal Lancaster had no one in front either to hold them up or leave any indentations in the greens, just about perfect conditions.

For the first few holes, there was dew on the ground. Moni-gomerie played his last six holes with only three errors, all on the 16th, and one of those was so slight that it can hardly be described as such. His drive had to go down the left-hand side of the fairway to facilitate the second shot on this long par-five.

Montgomerie's travelled a little too far left and ended in rough. The lie was not penal. enough to prevent him from into a greenside bunker, hard-pionship next week. I shall ly the most beinous crime.

The bunker was above the feel back into my swing."

FROM JOHN HOPKINS IN ORIANDO, FLORIDA hole, so the bunker shot was more difficult than usual. Montgomerie managed this beautifully, his ball landing on the firm green 20 feet or so short of its target and stopping three feet short of the flag. He missed the putt, and

demonstrated mock anger by pretending to hurl his putter at his bag as it lay on the ground and pretending to do likewise with his glove. Otherwise, his striking was

solid, his accuracy excellent. All that was missing was simi-lar accuracy with his putter. He holed from no more than three feet on the 13th after a wonderful approach, but putts for birdies on the 14th, 15th 17th and 18th all missed. None was longer than 18 feet, and just to rub in his own feelings of frustration, Montgomerie had to watch Lowery hole twice from 15 feet, twice from 25 feet and once from 35 feet.

During Lowery's outstand-ing round, he could not help but be reminded of a personal tragedy that had befallen him and his family last month. Lowery was competing in Tuc-son, Arizona, when his house on the side of the 4th hole here burned down. It is still a sorry sight. "Three more 67s and he will be able to afford to buy a new house," Montgomerie

It is one of life's rules that there is always someone worse off. No matter how much Monigomerie bemoans his present lack of success with the putter, he is playing better than Thomas Bjorn.

Bjorn had an eight on a parfive, a five on a par-three and finished with a 79. I am doing all the things I normally do, but it is just not there," Bjorn said. "I am going to miss the cut here and that means I shall practice and try and get some



Ross McFarlane, whose interest in the Sunningdale Foursomes ended yesterday, plays at the 3rd hole

McFarlane feels the pain

ONE of the enduring charms of the Sunningdale Foursomes is its total disrespect for reputations; the player who enters it expecting past achievement to be of the slightest relevance is liable to come a nasty cropper. Ask Ross McFarlane - the cropper be came yesterday was a classicof its kind. relentless determination

McFarlane, the only European Tour professional to survive to the quarter-finals of this the tournament this year, is a good, steady tournament golfer who won the European Tournament Players Championship in 1997, for which he got a five year exemption. His exemption to play in the 1999 Sumningdale Foursomes, on the other hand, ran out abruptly when he and Mark Palmer were shunted into a siding by the amateur pairing of Lisa

Walters and Richie McEvoy.

Walters and McEvoy won inches. The hole was halved at the 19th hole with a birdic four, but the force had been in four, the match all-square. McFarlane and Palmer had with them for a good longer than that. McFarlane and had their chance, had not taken it and were about to pay the price, the handicap of having to give six strokes to Palmer played enough decent golf to have won inside 18 holes, but the amateurs stock their opponents ultimately too to their coat-tails with

It was all square after 17 holes and both pairs missed the green at the 18th. McFarlane had a tricky little shot from off the green and handled it well, cooly chip-ping to 15 inches. Professional I, Amateur 0, right?

Wrong. The pressure was on Walters. A duffed shot here would have seen the curtains drawn discreetly over the match, but she rose to the occasion like a veteran, splashing out of greenside sand to six

RESULTS FROM SUNNINGDALE

FOURTH ROUND: M Plumber (Castle Coombe) and I Hanison (Ross-on-Mye) bt K Staunion and Z Scotland (Wood-cate Park) 1 hole; A Boatman (Royel Worlington) and C Marson (Sunnogdale) bt N Hansen and D Parks (North Foretand) 2 and 1; M Palmer (Mit Ride) and R McForlane (PGAET) bt D Honam and L James (Cast Dorset) 4 and 3; L Walters (Chevin) and R McEavoy (Thorpe Hall) bt A Walters (digit (Garlorth) and A Ambier (Malton Golf Centre) 3

NOPE" (Corhampton) bi M Sida (Shiftey Park) and D Clarke (Richmond) al 20th; D Copsey (Couladon Manor) and J Edwards (Knole Park) bi W Salthouse and Y Al (Ealing) 2 and 1; B McColl and S Shleids' (Thorpe Hail) bit P Creamer (Chiddingfold) and C Cowper (Jack Nickeus Golf Centre) 2 and 1.

coun; waters and McErby bt Palmer end McFarlane at 19th; Markwick and Roper bl Moir and Wilson 4 and 3; "McColl and Shields bt Copsey and Edwards 5 and 4.

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CHANGING TIMES

Cup captain, and Crispin Manson, who beat lan Harrison and Mark Plummer at the 20th hole, while the other two matches brought easy vic-tories for Bill McColl and Stephen Shields and Tim Markwick and Ian Roper.

won by Alex Boatman, whose

mother, Liz, is a former Curtis

Nicholas gets quickly back into the swing

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES, IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

ed to competition with an opening birdie four in the first round of the Standard Register Ping at Moon Valley in Phoenix, Arizona, yesterday. The Englishwoman, who

won the Sunrise Hawaiian Open last month, started at the 10th, a par five of 530 yards, and holed a 10-foot putt for her birdie, the best possible start after a two-week break.

The early leaders, at two under par, included the distin-guished trio of Se Ri Pak, Helen Alfredsson and Meg Mallon, as well as Sophie Gustalson, a promising Swede who has had an unpromising start to the season. She has missed four cuts in seven tournaments so far, but went out in 34, two under par, with birdles at the 1st and 8th.

At the 9th, where her drive finished so close to the water that she was in danger of falling in as she swung. Gus-taison cleared the lake with her second, but tweaked it well left and did superbly to rescue

her par four. Mallon, who conceded Gustafson a generous half in their singles match at the Solheim Cup at Muirfield Village last September, is renowned for her sporting nature. Next

week, she is to receive the Wil-

ALISON NICHOLAS return- liam and Mousie Powell Award, a tribute from her peers, who vote each year for the member who best exemplifies the spirit, ideals and values of the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

Tim Howland, the relatively new chief executive of the Euro pean LPGA Tour, is here with John Mort, the tour's manag-ing director, for consultations with the Solheim family, sponsors of the biennial Solheim Cup and the US LPGA, whose new commissioner takes office on Monday. Ty Votaw, who has worked for the US LPGA for several years, is replacing the Internet business



Nicholas: impressive return

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er the Telecommunications Act 1984 ("the Act") to run telecommunications systems for Project Connect: a Government Private Finance Initiative to easure that London Underground Limited (LUL) receive the modern transmission and radio services its railway business requires. The Licence will be for a period of 25 years subject to earlier

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i. Representations or objections may be made in respect of the proposed licence, the application of the Code to CTL and the exceptions and conditions referred to above. They should be made in writing by Thursday 15th April 1999 and addressed to the undersigned at the Department of Trade and Industry, Communications and Information Industries Directorate, 275/Grey, 151 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SS. Copies of the

Roger Close

Department of Trade and Industry

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copies of the exceptions and conditions in the licence to their powers under the Code;

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Nicholls has sights set on trainers' title

BY ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE brothers-in-law made Cheltenham a family affair again. Paul Nicholls and Mick Fitzgerald were once more the centre of attention after See More Business's Tote Gold Cup win and a remarkable Festival has opened up unexplored horizons for them both. Nicholls could even disturb an apparent monopoly by becoming the season's champion

trainer.
The Gold Cup prize-money of £150,000 took Nicholls ahead in the trainers' table for the first time. Martin Pipe, undisputed champion for so long, is suddenly under threat. "To be on top for one day is good enough," beamed Nicholls. "We've cracked it. But I have still got 60 horses to run and I can tell you I'll be

It is barely conceivable that Fitzgerald will take the National Hunt jockeys' title - at least unless something dreadful befalls Tony McCoy, who still leads him by 34. But for a man who almost gave up on British racing, four Festival winners and the London Clubs Trophy as jockey of the meeting is not bad to be going on

Fitzgerald has never been short of something to say and he was typ-ically eloquent after the middle leg of yesterday's 636-1 treble, begun by Katarino in the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle and concluded by Stormyfairweather in the Cathcart Challenge Cup.

Declining the offer of victory champagne, he spoke bubblingly of See More Business, then reflectively of his own altered circumstances. "I could be rounding up sheep in New Zealand," he said. "I was ready to go there a few years back, even had a job lined up, but a small trainer called Ray Callow rescued my career here."

Fitzgerald, 28, was born in Cork and served his apprenticeship on the Curragh but he was always destined to be too heavy for the Flat. On coming to England, he scraped a living riding as a freelance but it was only when he joined Nick Henderson that he left the breadline of his profession and fulfilment beckoned.

When he won the Grand National on Rough Quest in 1996 he caused mirth among others and months of teasing for himself by saying on television that the feeling was "better than sex". He was more cautious yes-



FESTIVAL

terday but explained: "When I got beaten in the Gold Cup on Rough Quest that same year I was absolutely gutted. I wanted to feel what the winner was feeling and, now that I do, it won't go away for a very long

Nicholls, whose wife Bridget is the

sister of Fitzgerald's wife, Jane, grew

up just outside Bristol, the son of a policeman. After a successful career as a jockey, he began renting the sta-bles owned by Paul Barber at Discheat, Somerset, in 1991. He had the benefit of some affluent owners but long ago discarded the need for privilege. Nicholls has established a training method that works and a team of trusted aides that gels. His head lad, to whom he gave much of the credit for Call Equiname's win is the Queen Mother Champion Chase, is Clifford Barker, previously with David Nicholson. Barker has had previous Festival triumphs to savour but, for

Nicholls, it was virgin territory. "I suppose I did begin to wonder if I would ever have a winner here but you have to put that sort of thing behind you and get on with life," he said. "Now, it has all changed." A winner on each day of the greatest show in racing has made sure of that and now there are no boundaries beyond Nicholls. Pipe is a restless sort at the best of times but sleep may have been exceptionally clusive last

☐ A Tote Jackpot pool of £295,473 is carried forward to Fakenham today. The Tote also announced record oncourse turnover for the three days at Cheltenham this year. A total of E8,169,769 represented an increased



Fitzgerald and See More Business leave the favourite, Florida Pearl, toiling in third in the Tote Gold Cup

Retirement looms for Nick Dundee

NICK DUNDEE needed so much luck to escape with his life at Cheltenham on Wednesday that he seems unlikely to be granted the surplus necessary for him to race again. The Irish novice had given substance to his huge reputation by reaching the third last in the Royal & SunAlliance Chase on the bridle, but his fall at that fence appears to have brought a hearthreaking end to the most prom-

ising of careers. Nick Dundee has had a splint and

BY CHRIS MCGRATH

cast fitted to his left hind leg at Valley Equine Hospital in Lambourn, His owner, John Magnier, is seeking advice on X-rays of the fetlock joint from vets at Cooknore Stud and in America, but the odds are firmly against the horse racing again. Trevor Sainty, a spokesman for the Hospital, said: "He's very comfortable, eating and drinking well. It is quite a nasty injury but the leg is weight-bearing."

The other unhappy episode at Cheltenham on Wednesday con-cerned Tony McCoy's use of the whip on Majadou in the Mildmay of Flete Chase, Malcolm Wallace, the Jockey Club's director of regulation, yester-day elaborated the reasoning behind the four-day suspension — for hitting his mount when clearly winning, and doing so in the wrong place anyway. "He was hitting the horse across the ribs and he knows that is wrong,"

The joy and pain of business at the racecourse

enuine. It's a word horse-people use a lot. He's a really genuine horse, we say. Not meaning that he's genuinely got four legs with hooves on, but that there is a fundamental honesty about him. At base, he is on your

Ask him to jump some thing, and if he can, he will: straight and true and no messing about Ask him to gallop, and he'll gallop. If he hurts, he will genuinely try to work through the pain: because he's that type of horse. No doubt about the human

star of the Cheltenham Festival: Paul Nicholls, a man with a full moon face who looks like a copper. Those who watched Channel 4's coverage over the past three days will have had plenty of opportunity to get an impression of Nicholis, because he kept being interviewed in the winner's enclosure.

Three winners, including the big one, the Gold Cup yesterday, with See More Business. Speaking pleasant-ly, modestly, with a West Country burn no airs, no side, no pretension. A thoroughly good sort; and I think utterly

I went to visit him a week before the Festival, at a time when most trainers simply cannot be bothered with strangers coming to the yard. But it is Nicholls's nature to be obliging. And as to looking like a copper well, it is all in the genes. His dad was a

Nicholls would make a very decent bobby himself: but it happened that he got the horsey bug when young a changeling a cuckoo in the nest And he has got to where he is on that devastatingly original mixture of hard work and talent. He trains down near Castle Cary in Somerset, and his horses run up the steepest gallop I have ever seen: "Like the north face of the Eiger," John Francome. told viewers.

I paid my visit in order to have a few words with Double Thriller, the unknown quantity of the race. But the previous year, I had paid Nicholls a visit to talk to another big, burly steeplechaster; See More Business. And there was something about him I took to at once.



Swaggering out of his box with an air of effortless domi-nance body language that reminds you of that great domi-nant type, Desert Orchid: the same swagger, the same self-belief. And fiking the horse I was dismayed when he was carried out of the Gold Cup

But when asked to pick my horse to follow for the season for Horse and Hound, I went back to See More Business -and seemed at once to have put the kibosh on his entire season. Very quiet a shadow of his former self. Overlooked in just about every preview of the big race.

last vegr.

And me, I was all over Teeton Mill, the grey trained by Venetia Williams. Lord, this is a fearful game television brought us that image of Teeton Mill, whatking a fence and in the first stride afterwards I shouted aloud: "He's gone." We heard later that Teeton Mill had slipped the tendon off his off-hind hock leaving his career in the

At the other end of the race all was joy, as See More Busi-ness ran on up the hill with the strength and the courage of a truly genuine horse. He should have won it lest year. but never mind that now.

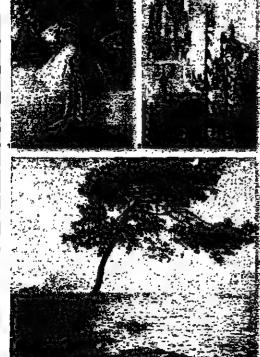
It was a great run, and as Nicholls, for once putting modesty aside, felt obliged to point out, it puts him at the top of the trainer's table.

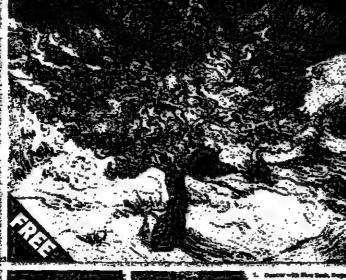
So it is time to cheer a thor oughly decent man, and his thoroughly genuine borse. Another Festival ends, and the nerves of all involved have been given the once over by a mechanical fisil. There is no other game in which joy and anguish are so close. Television and Channel 4, by bringing us the joy and never duck ing, though never gloating over the anguish did us Droud.

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE SETIMES

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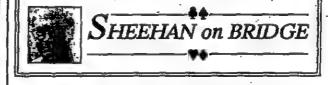
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CHANGING TIMES



By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 48 -Responder's second bid after opener has shown cura values

In the last couple of weeks I have looked at responder's second bid after opener's minimum rebid. If opener makes a bid which shows extra values the principles are the same but it is often difficult for inexperienced players to appreciate that when opener shows a good hand they do not need such a good hand themselves in order to bid on. Take the following rather ordinary responding hand:

4A1065 Ø1054 0 Q5 4K1086

Now consider the following bidding sequences:

	Opener 1 D	Resp'r 1 S	(B) Opener	Resp'r		Opecer 1 D		
	20	?	3D	?		38	?	
)n 3),	Sequen	opener sh	conder has	a clear par values and	ss. b las	ut on S	equence suit, he	-

should try Three No-Trumps. The queen of diamonds should help solidify partner's suit and the ace of spades is a sure trick. All should be well if the opponents can't take too many hearts and there is no way to find that out. The game bonus is worth taking some risk. Generally speaking, when your part-nership's main suit is a minor you should prefer to have a go at Three No-Trumps about because eleven tricks are a lot to make. On Sequence (C), while responder would have happily passed a raise to Two Spades, it is clear to press on to game when partner shows extra values.

Those were all pretty straightforward. Now try these: (D) Opener Resp'r (E) Opener Resp'r (F) Opener Resp'r 18 1D 1S 2NT ? 3 D 3C 7

On Sequence (D) you are well worth a raise to Three No-Trumps, though you might have settled for a conservative raise to Two No-Trumps had partner simply rebid One No-Trump. On Sequence (E) partner has forced to game (i.e. shown 19 HCP or equivalent) with at least five hearts and at least four diamonds. You should show your three-card support for his first suit by giving him preference to Three Hearts. On Sequence (P) partner has also forced to game but this time has five diamonds and four clubs. Although you have only 9 HCP you have a great hand - the queen of his first suit, four-card support headed by the king for his second suit and an are on the side. Raise him to Four Clubs because there may be a slam

in clubs - but more of this in a future lesson.

You can get any lessons you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 26p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Totteridge Lane, High Wycombe, Burks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

WORD-WATCHING

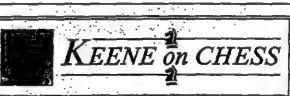
By Philip Howard

a. A footballer b. A bowl

a. An orban dweller h. An ejaculation of triumph UPPING 2. An Old Boy of Uppingham b. A diacritic mark

c. Persecuting swans (JVEA a. The vine b. No Way

t. The coloured bit of the eye Answers on page 50



BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Loss on time

In the 19th century, tournament chess was often painfully slow, since there was no constraint in early competitions on the speed at which players moved. For over 100 years though; chess clocks have regulated the rate of play. The harsh penalty for exhausting your thinking time is to lose by

In today's game, which com-pletes my record off all the decisive encounters from Linares. grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk achieves a winning posi-tion against Britain's Michael Adams. However, on the very last move of the time control. Ivanchuk's clock flag fell be-fore he could finish making the move on the board. This victory briefly catapulted Michael Adams into sole lead in the tournament

White Vassily Ivanchuk Black: Michael Adams Linares 1999

Ninzo-Indian Defence c4 Nc3 **93** Qxc3 8g5 e3 Nd2 8**63** hwg3 0-0-0 Qxf6 Nb3 18 19

Bxc4 a5 Bf7 8406 b4 axb4 Kxb4 Rd7+

Rd7.+

Ra7 Diagram of final position

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmasfrom international Granumas-ter Raymond Keenes daily col-umn in *The Times*, and is avail-able now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99+p&p).

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend sec-tion on Saturday

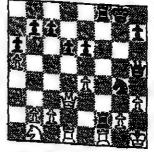
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Aaron - Keene

Hong Kong 1984.
The black rooks are powerfully placed. How did he now make maximum use of them to tear into the white kingside?

Solution on page 50



Age Sugar

THE PLAN SHAPE

SHOW CASE MANCE

103



Chris McGrath on a tenacious performance by horse and rider in the Stayers' Hurdle

Johnson works hard for Anzum reward

THE conjunction of the Cheltenham Festival and David Nicholson's sixtieth birthday always promised trou-ble. After the remarkable victory of Anzum in yesterday's Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle, however, they will do well to distinguish today's party from the celebration of the trainer's seventieth. There will, at any rate, be few finishes to match this epic in the interior. the interim.

H 19 1999

Betting at this year's Festival has reached a new intensity and punters were especially inspired by the Stayers: A triangular market had formed between Le Coudray, exported from France to Ballydoyle by the intepid J P McManus and the antepost gamble of the meeting; Lady Rebecca, unbeaten in four visits to Cheltenham this season; and Deano's Beeno, a typically doughty front-runner trained by Martin Pipe. At 40-1. Anzum was running for the bookmakers.

Deano's Beeno was expected to examine his rivals' stamina but the drying ground appeared to inhibit the freedom of his gallop and rhythm of his jumping. Instead it was Sailie's Girl who took command on the home turn, where Lady Rebecca drifted wide, taking Le Coudray with her. Norman Wil-liamson and Charlie Swan both held their mounts together for the final climb, Swan on Le Coudray finding his task conspicuously the easier

as they swamped Sallie's Girl. He waited until well inside the last 100 yards before bursting two



FESTIVAL

lengths clear. Suddenly, however, there was Anzum. At the final hurdle, he had laboured into fourth; a yard from the line, he plunged his neck in from Richard Johnson, who had already rowed from Putney to Mortlake before the others came off the bit, reserved a last kilojoule to

clench his fist in exultation. "I walked off the lawn thinking he was going to be third or even second and that was great," Nicholson said. "I couldn't see the big screen. Then Arthur Moore came up to me and said we'd won. I couldn't believe him. The horse was never on the bridle and at the turn I thought he'd be placed at best, but Richard just kept kicking and pushing."

Johnson, 21, was breaking his Festival duck but will ride many more winners up a hill that punishes any faltering of conviction in horse or everything," he said. "I think I'm as shocked as David."

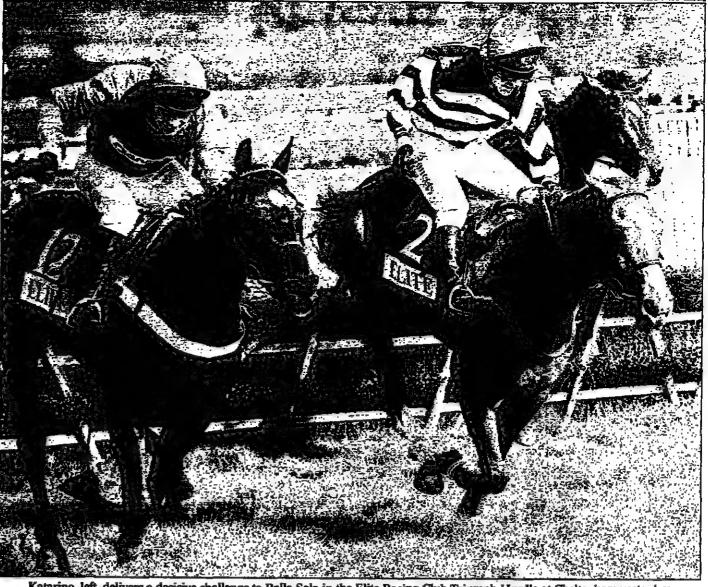
He was wrong there, though, as Nicholson had taken 50-1 against Anzum earlier in the week. "He's a tough horse who was third in the Tri-umph here and then second in this two years ago," he said. "He hasn't the best of legs and the staff have done a great job."

There had been a similar instance

of success being out of the fire in the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle, though in the case of Katarino the punters felt only gratitude to Mick Fitzgerald. The 11-4 favourite never travelled with any comfort off a ferocious gallop, but buoyant jumping kept his cause alive and he sprang past Balla Sola at the last and bounded eight lengths clear.

"He was always in top gear but he's tough," Nicky Henderson, his trainer, said. "He has already run in a steeplechase in France and isn't the sort of Flat horse you usually get in this race, but his jumping got him there. We may take him back to his native country for the four-year-old championship in June."

Another new star emerged from the hunting field when Castle Mane tore up the hill for an impressive success in the Christies Foxhunter Chase—earning inevitable compari-sons with the former stablemate, whose star frzied out so wanly yesterday. "He has to be as good as Teeton Mill was last year," Caroline Bailey, his trainer, said.



Katarino, left, delivers a decisive challenge to Balla Sola in the Elite Racing Club Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

2.20 Connel's Croft 3.50 Misconduct 2.50 Knock Leader 4.20 Mr Dick Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 LUCY TUFTY. Carl Evans: 4.20 Mr Dick. GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS 2.20 FAKENHAM CAR CENTRE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

A hydically feasing Falanham seller, it would be rash to discuss The Great Flood, whose third to biopets over course and discusse earlier in the season gives him a sound chance despite his high weight. Local Trifly is another to wealt serious considerations on her second to River Frontier over course and distance, respectable from at this level. However, alight preference is for CONNIS.'S CRUET, who secured to struggle to stay over 2m at when fourth to Titles in a competitive seller at Californic test time. This choice time any title. Bloods has a lengthy absence to overcome, white Among istants and Aldar have been well beaten this term. Court Joker is a better prospect but is an interquent winner. 2.50 EDP CHAMPION FOR NEWS HOVICES CHASE

(£3,456: 3m 110yd) (8 runners)

IONOCK LEADER was no match for the useful House Captain on the character of the control of the character of the control of the character of th

3.20 GRAHAM BUILDING SUPPLIES HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,282: 2m 5f 110yd) (8 runners) BETTINGS: 2-1 Yanisie Lord, 5-2 Danger Flynn, 5-1 Nosarn, 7-1 Pro Bono, Wolopers Delight, 8-1 Steler Rossa, 50-1 Just Bruce, Eposlo De La Rombe. 1998: BASSENHALLY 8-11-4 W Marston (9-1) Mrs P Sty 9 ran

Pro Bono roos well here and can again be expected to put up a bold circum. Danger Flynn has also won at the track, but his success was handed to bottor on a plate with the last-light departure of Salmon Breeze. More orderesting is YAMREE LORD, who weatened when ascond to Smortly over fitnee miles at Heatington last time. The return to a shorter thy can halp han regain winning ways. No sam is consistent attituoign has jumpling is not always as fluent as it might be. Whoppers Delight, not especially concistent, is preferred to the out of form Stater Rossa.

3.50 TOTE HURDLE (SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (95,280; 2m) (9 runners)

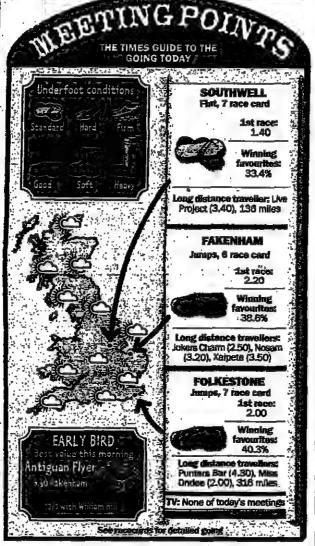
(1.5.20). Gill) (3 (DHRCS) | Heading) S Golliegs 5-12-2 (7m) | D Sadaghar 80 (1.5.21) PROVINCE 5 (B.D.S) (1 Brown) C March 6-12-2 (7m) | Usage 95 (40 (1.5.21) PROVINCE 5 (B.D.S) (1 Brown) C March 6-11-40 | D Yallon-Gener (7) (41 (1.5.21) PROVINCE 5 (B.D.S) (1 Brown) C March 6-11-40 | D Yallon-Gener (7) (41 (1.5.21) PROVINCE 5 (B.D.S) (1 Brown) C March 7-11-7 | Regard 10 (1.1.4 EMARCH) C MARCH 10 (1.5.21) PROVINCE 6-11-11-7 | My J Constant (9) (1.5.21) PROVINCE (1.5.21) P

Province did favouris backers a favour at Sandown last Sa



FAKENHAM SPECIALISTS

TRAMERS: S Gollings, 4 witners from 12 numers, 33.3%; O Shawood, 3 from 9, 33.3%; Mrs D Haine, 7 from 28, 25.0%; Mrs P Sty, 3 from 14, 21.4%. Only qualifiers. JOCKEYS: R Farrant, 4 winners from 14 rules, 28.6%; Michael Breman, 5 from 21, 23.8%, J A McCarthy, 4 from 16, 22.2%, G Bradley, 3 from 24, 12.5%; D Gallagher, 3 from 25, 12.0%.



GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

101.113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Half 12-0 8 West (7) 88

Recercand humber. Sa-ligure form (F—tell.
P—pulled up. U—unskaled nider.
B—bioupht down. 3—stipped up.
R—refused. D—disquelified). Horse's name form, hard G—good. S—coil, good to soil, beary. Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowence. Timekeepear's speed rating

4.20 WILLIAM BULWER-LONG MEMORIAL NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (£2,023: 2m 5f 110yd) (14 runners)



· 1998: STONEY VALLEY 8-11-9 Mr M Singes (4-1) B Dowling 12 can

In a race that makes limited appeal as a betting medium it may prove critical to sold with MRT DCC4. We less to do then when the test with MRT DCC4. We less to do then when the test with MRT DCC4. We less to do then when the test will be test and the test will be test with the test will be test to test with the test will be test to test the test will be test the most to do. Witness Cottage would have been placed in a further class at Ludder in Mach but for putting up as it something was amiss. Thus will be its first race under Rules since. A Right Set Two is a tax pointer but still less something to learn about jumping. Note of the other numers make much appear.

4.50 EDP CHAMPION FOR SPORT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS MAIDEN HURDLE (\$2,214: 2m) (11 runners)

601	000	BUSTED FLAT 18 (A Burndge) Mrs J Brown 6-51-86 Lee	
602		DOCTOR HICKS (I. Wordingham) L. Wordingham 5-11-8	-
503	0	OUR FLIGHEY 11 (P Winkmoth) P Winkmoth 5-11-8 O McPhall	4
	05-	PETER PERFECT 23 (V) (P Language) Mrs S Lenguy 5-11-8 L Corcoran	4
605	P-00	VELVET JONES 22F (Mrs.) Charles-Jones 6-11-8 L. Cooper	
604 605 666 687 608		ABLE LASS 89F (G Prodromou) G Prodrovicu 5-11-3R Waldey	-
667	30-F30	HURRICANE JAME 22 (M Reberts) M J Roberts 7-11-3T Peoples (4)	1.0
806	1500	JUST A MADAM 7832 (F) (M Green) Net A E Johnson 9-11-3 Michael Brennen	-
509	-E3P55	TANGSISAN 17 (Mrs S Thorson Jaints) Mrs 0 Hains 5-11-3S Durack	8
510	. OPO	JAMORIN DANCER 28 (M Banks) M Banks 4-11-0	24
611	P	SABRE BUTT 65 (B) (Raceworld) M Tompicos 4-11-0 D Yellowless (4)	-
-	naC - 7.4 A	turricane Jane, 7-2 Tangchan, 7-1 Busted Flat, 8-1 Sapre Buil, 10-1 Jamerin Dancer, 12-1	Пы
	. Andala	82 - 18-1 Vijak Miring milik 1-4: denik mili 1-2 bit 25:1 Lef 6-1 setti 6 Dill' 10-2 Senda ni merks '15-2	-

1998: ASSALLABLE 4-11-0 Moddel Bronner (2-5 lav) N Callaghen 14 ran

This tooks a good opportunity for HURRICANE. JANE to get her head in brail. The seven-yea-old has shown enough ability to win a race of this reduce and will be hard to beat if ability to win a race of this reduce and will be hard to beat if ability to win a staying on that to Castaplerity. Tangshan, lair on the Flat as a three-yea-old with Michael Stoute, may prove the biggest danger. Generally a trans-matter, he was not given a transform winner south to Misscanduct.— Inviting bean held up — at Catarrick last time. Peter Perfect can be secused his debut effod (sadde slipped) and showed some ability with this till a salter at Doncaster, keeping on, last month. Safer Buff made his debut at heavy ground at Karepton and took be better from his modest effort there suggested but Busted Flat and Yeard Joses here shown on sign of ability, Jampone Denoter is another with Fiftle to recommend harm. Our Flagley, who can this to on the Flat in his active New Zealand, was sent of 166-1 on his Busted debut at Fertivell and made little impression. Able Lass, who makes his debut over timber, can boast only poor Flat form.

FORESTONE

2.00 Inclination, 2.30 Montroe, 3.00 PALATIAL (nap), 3.30 Buckland Lad, 4.00 Sorbiere, 4.30 Secret Bid, 5.00 Gunnerbe Posh.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES)

2.00 HOSPICE ON THE HILL MARES ONLY CLAIM-ING HURDLE (£1,784: 2m 11 110yd) (12 runners)

2.30 HOSPICE ON THE HILL HOVICES CHASE (£3.948: 3m 2f) (6)

1 30UZ WOODLANDS BEAU 18 (F.S.S) R AKW 7-11-10 1 3002 WODDLANDS BEAU 18 F.S.S.R After 7-11-10
A Thomson 115
2 0693 CORN EXCHANGE 8 F.S.) D Dugger 11-11-3 ...H Other (5) 82
1 P453 EDGE AMEAD 18 (8) his 0 1-10 pt. 11-3 S Torrey 4
4 5202 MONTRICE 30 (9.5) R Bove 7-11-3 R Duswoody 1220
5 AFF ROYAL RAVEN 16 (6) J Getau 8-11-3 L Aspect 7
8 119- UP THE COLUMERY 3/SP (5) R Carles 7-11-3 ... C Lievelby 7 11-10 Woodlands Bess, 7-4 Monkos, 8-1 Reyal Raven, 10-1 Up The County, 18-1 Corn Exstange, 25-1 Edge Ahead

3.00 HOSPICE ON THE HILL NOVICES HURDLE (£2,488: 2m 1f 110yd) (10)

7-4 Pietro Bembo, 9-4 Patettel, 11-4 Edwards, 10-1 Lightning Stal, 12-1 Porish Lappin, 25-1 Ross Town, 33-1 Mr Wild, 50-1 space

3.30 HOSPICE ON THE HILL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,623: 2m) (6)

1 2741 BUCKLAND LAD 14 (CD.F.S) D Green 8-11-11
2 34-F GREY GEOF 22 (D.G.S) G Habbard 8-11-11 ... R Thornton 116
3 5953 CDOLTEDI HERD 13 (D.G.S) R Ainer 9-11-9 ... R Wildow (5) 120
4 2714 FERRERS 28 (D.G.S) Na'r P Sy 6-11-9 ... Wildow (5) 120
5 PSPP DENOMERS 16 (G) Na's L Israin 8-10-13 ... T J Naturally (338
6 - GRF URWARD SURGE 94 (D.F) R Ledge 9-10-0 Aints N Ledger 5-4 Buckland Lad, 2-1 Feners, 4-1 Confeen Hero, 5-1 Gipsy Geol, 20-1 Denicator, 65-1 Upward Stage.

4.00 HOSPICE ON THE HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,815: 2m 6i 110yd) (10)

7-2 Monts Soham, 5-1 Mittensum, 11-2 Double Spille, 6-1 Sorblese 7-1 Amss Solt II, β-1 Fountain Bld. Salarme, 10-1 others.

4.30 HOSPICE ON THE HILL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,469: 3m 2f) (12) 1 2073 GRURCH LAW 63 (6.5) Mrs L Taylor 12-11-70 T J Murphy PESS 2 6-52 PLINTERS BAR 69 (6.5) P Boxen 12-11-6 ... W Marston 103 3 -250 FORTUNES COURSE 13 (0.F.G.S.) J King 10-11-6 ... L Committes (3) 4 PPPO DENVER BAY 22 (C.F.S.) J Gâlod 12-11-0 ... L Aspel 5 4443 SECRET 800 94 (C.D.F.Li) R Aine 9-10-12 ... A Thornton 106 1723 TOTAL JUY 22 (G.S.S.) C Marin 8-10-12 ... A Thornton 106 1723 TOTAL JUY 22 (G.S.S.) C Marin 8-10-12 ... A Thornton 106 1723 TOTAL JUY 22 (G.S.S.) C Marin 8-10-12 ... R Durawoody 110 - 225 ELAZMG STUTM 22 (G.S.S.) D Loggan 14-10-0 ... B Powell 42 9 0455 GLEN 0AK 93 (G.G.S.) D Loggan 14-10-0 ... H Giver (5) 100 - 60.F GREY GORDEN 99 (G.S.S.) T McGanern 11-10-0 ... X Alzpuru (3) 108

11 33/5 POLO PORY 28 (B.F.E.S) J Macamen 11-10-0 X Alzpera (3) 108
11 33/5 POLO PORY 28 (B.F.E.S) J Macamby 8-10-0 ... __ J Supple 102
12 -P3P BUBBLES GALORE 30 T D Macamby 8-10-0 0 Burrows (5) ___ 11-4 Total Joy, 5-1 Secret Bid, 11-2 Bizzing Storm, 7-1 Charch Law, Punters Bar, Polo Pony, 10-1 Fortunes Course, 14-1 others.

5.00 H.B.L.B. HOSPICE ON THE HILL MAIDEN NA-TIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,578: 2m 11 110yd) (13)

7-4 Sumestie Post, 5-2 King of The Castle, 9-2 Brockon Glas, 8-1 Toreo, 10-1 Pembroke Square, 20-1 El Moury, Printh Rince, 25-1 official.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS, C Egyston, 3 minutes from 10 numers, 30,0%, Mrs D Hains, 1 from 18, 27,8%, G McCourt, 3 from 13, 23,1%; M Fige. 7 from 32, 21,9%, McGouste, 4 from 20, 20,0%, D Gressell, 11 from 63, 17,5%. JOCKEYS X Accounts, 3 witners from 7 rides, 42 9%, N Williamson, 14 kenn 49; 28,6%, A McCoy, 9 from 52, 17,3%, R Dustroody, 5 kern 39, 15,4%, R Thoman, 4 from 27, 14,8%, P Hda, 7 kern 58, 12,1%, Only qualifiers.

SOUTHWELL

ROB WRIGHT 1.40 Lady Rachel. 2.10 May King Mayhem. 2.40 Anonym. 3.10 Sea-Belle. 3.40 Cool Secret. 4.10 Rich Ballerina. 4.40 Cantgetyourbreath.

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE COING: STANDARD

1.40 ZEUS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Div I; £1,612: 1m 4f) (9 runners)

1 1125 MOONRAKING 21 (B.CO) Miss S Wilton 8-8-12

2.10 ZEUS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (Div II: £1,612: 1m 4f) (9)

2.40 HERA CLAIMING STAKES(£2,194: 1m) (14)

1 0-00 DOMMO FLYER 32 (CD.G.S) Mrs A Swintont 6-9-12
2 3434 KILLARREY JAZZ 13 (B.CD) G Chung 4-9-11 ... M Teibrid 11
3 2011 BRANDON MAGIC 42 (CD.G.S) D Nocholis 6-9-9
4 -215 ANDRYM 18 (BF.CD.F.G) G M Moore 7-9-8 ... J Chinn 14
5 1445 TRINGGIAM BRIV 23 (CD.C.H) M Right 19-94 ... J Chinn 14
5 1445 TRINGGIAM BRIV 23 (CD.C.H) M Right 19-94 ... P M Colons 3
6 0-03 BROCTIME LINE 11 (CD) Mrs M Revetley 9-97 ... S Copp (5) 8
7 00-0 MOVING PRINCES 11 Mrs S 1404 4-97 ... A McGione 3
8 UNUS ADDRIPOLE 11 (T.D.) Mrs M Microsley 4-9-6
9 0306 SHARP MONICY 11 (M.CD) Mrs M Microsley 4-9-6
10 6324 AWESOME VENTURE 11 (CD.S) M Chapman 9-3-5
17 0-00 PWE RIDGE LAD 11 (CD.F.S) J L Henris 9-9-5 ... S Sanders 5
12 0-62 EASTLEIGH 42 (C.D.S) R Hollischead 10-9-4 ... A Chinane 4
13 000/ KIND PRINCE 17,1 R Wholest 7-9-4 Dean McKenson 8
14 1/0- SUR MARK 43 (C.S.) Miss J Craze 8-9-4 S Webster 1
6-1 (KBangs Jazz 9-2 Brandon Mogic, 6-1 Brocken Line 7-1 Kingcing Boy,

4-1 Killaruer Jazz. 9-2 Brandon Magic. 6-1 Brockme Line. 7-1 Kingcing Boy. Moving Princesc, 8-1 Asianyra, 10-1 Amesome Verlure, Eastleigh. 14-1 Others.

3.10 APOLLO MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 13-Y-0: \$2.057: 61) (8)

8-11 Sea-Bello, 6-1 Dovedon Times, So Willing, 7-1 Tancred Arms, 10-1 Slightly Dusty, 16-1 Prince Of Aragon, 33-1 others.

3.40 NEPTUNE HANDICAP (£6,215: 7f) (9) 1 316- ASTRAC 164 (CD.F.S) D Netrolis B-10-D ... Alex Graves 7 2 1111 SHARP SCOTCH 3 (C.S) D Caroli 6-9-11 (6ex) R REPARTIC (S) 6 3 1-23 ADELPH 90Y 30 (C) M Chaptran 3-9-3 ... S Righton (7) 5 4 0612 COOL SECRET 11 (C.F) K Bulke 4-9-1 ... I F Gran 1 5 000- TERTIAM 153 (D.F.S) M Litterosten 7-8-12 ... M Femion 9 6 2115 WHODSHET 11 (V.B.C) D Share 3-9-5 ... R Winston (3) 2 7 6013 LIVE PROLECT 6 (CD.S) R Chapter 7-8-3 ... C Charmock 3 3526 WATEN 6 (OSB) 11 18 (N) MIS to Interceive 4-8-1 ... G Duffeet 4 9 3443 DAHLENA 21 (C) M Projetze 4-10 ... A POB (3) 8

4.10 APHRODITE SELLING STAKES (3-Y-0: £1,814. 71) (B)

9-4 Rich Balleroza, 5-2 Keen Hands, 9-2 Weel U There, 6-1 E B Peerl, 8-1 Letty Caroline, 12-1 Sorley Solare, 20-1 Pasta, 33-1 Netherball.

4.40 ACHILLES HANDICAP (3-Y-0: £3,631: 6f) (10)

3-1 Ashover Amber, 7-2 besh Cream, 5-1 Sounds Lucky, 6-1 Poliv Mills, 8-1 Modity Water, 10-1 Red Charger, Cardgetybusbream, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRABERS Miss S Haft, 5 winners from 9 norms, 55.6%, Sk M Prescor, 27 from 66, 31,4%; Mkss S Willon, 12 hom 43, 27.9%, K Bell, 3 hom 11, 27.3%, D Caroll, 5 from 25, 20.0%; M Johnston, 43 from 222, 19.4%. JOCKEY'S R FIXPENICL, 9 wimers from 32 lides, 28.1%, N Day, 8 from 38, 21.1%, Kimberley Hart, 11 from 55, 20 O'S, D Holtand, 23 fears 118, 19 5%; J Weaver, 37 from 231 16.0%; M Fetbett, 12 from 80 15.0%

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: 2.00 Silvery.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Cheltenham

OTTESTED HIGHT
Golden good to solt (good in places),
2.00 (2m 1) hole) 1, KATARINO (M A Fizperaid, 11-4 lank, 2, Batta Sola (R Welsh,
15-1), 3, Aismad (C F Sean, B-1), 4, Dangerus Pracedent, (N Wilsamson, B-1),
ALSO RAN; 9 Knife Edge, Smply Gifted, 16
Selvisoros, (5th), Frazia Groom, Scariel
Pripemet (5th), 25 Nucetimo, 28 Miss Cirphan, 40 Commiche, Engeus, 56 Miss Para,
New Bad, Street Fighter, 100 Charter's Gold,
1-pad Aboard, The Gerne Genie, 150 imphstreety, Inner Light, Tales A Turn (h. 200 incapita, 23 ran 88, 1-s., 21, 51, 14 N Hemperson
at Lambourm Tote, Eng 60 £160, 54 00.

cast £288 30
2.35 (3m 110yd hdie) 1, ANZUM (R Joh son, 40-1), 2, La Coudray (C F Swan, 2 (-lav), 3, Ledy Rebecca (N Williamso, 3-1) ALSO RAN 2-1 (-lav) begrots Been 16 Go-tniormal, 25 Saliets Gri (4th), 33 Julish (5th), Peddy's Return (5th), Transwe, 66 Lord Jrm. Ocasan Heess, ran, Ns. 25, 5th, 83 D Necholson at Temp Culting, Total, 250 C 15 C 15 3.15 (2m 2f 110)xi ch) 1, SEB MODRE BUSH-NESS (MA Fitoperald 16-1) 2 Go Ballistie (A Dobon, 66-1); 3 Flootofa Paral (R Dun-woody, 5-2 tank. ALSO RAN 7-2 Teeton AMI 11-2 Dorans Phote 9 Double Threiter Hamil Escatelegue, 14 Suny Bay, Uncartasole Borez, 20 Seroly Basterg (6th), 50 Serol 51 Beturin, 66 Addington Boy Sth), 12 ran Naf Impanal Call. 11, 17, 141, 374, 12f P Nichols at Shephon Molat, Tote, E14 40, 1250, 15-50, 12 co. DF E216 60 Thiecta 84,033 90 CSF E596 Thoeset E3,163 34
3.55 (3m 2f 110)xi ch) 1, Castle Mane (M B Polock, 6-2), 2, Degran Lord (3-1 tank), 3, Lasi Opton (20-1), 3 ran, 13, 114 Mar C Balley Tore 24 30 E2 40, E1 90, E3 80 DF E7,90 CSF E15 67 Thoeset E33 62
4.30 (3m 110)xi ch) 1, Space Thucker (J R Barry, 7-2 tank), 2, Dines (6-1), 3, Humanal-Lomp (18-1), 15 tan 13, 11 Mar J Marington Tore, E3 90, E180 E2 00, E7 20 DF E3 10 CSF E23 87 teast, E277 14
5.05 (2m 51 ch) 1, Starmytaleweather (M A Etherschild Call 3 Mar Deg (14-1), 3, Erial-

DF 08.10 CSF 102.48 Troast, E277 14

8.05 (2m 5) ch 1 Stormyfahrweather (M A Fitzgerald, 9-11, 2. Nav Dee (14-1) 3. Edelwes du Moulin (5-1) Dr Leunt (5th) 11-1 tav 10 ron NR. Bengers Moor, Hoth Express, Navt Dundee 21 hd. N. Herderson Tote, 89.00, E1 80, E2 70, E1 90 DF E31 90 CSF E108 E2 Tricast E640 21

8.40 (2m 1) hollet 1. Sir Tasbot (T J Musphy 10-1), 2. Decoupage (100-30 fav), 3. Toto Toscate (25-11, 4. Sadiers Resim (25-11, 25 fan NR Barna Boy, Kathryris Pel S., 100 J Old Toto C11-40, E2-90, E1 70, E3-60, E6-30 DF E20-30 Interca E3-964-60 CSF C33 116 Throast E798-38

Jackpot E233,095.80 (0.1 winning tickets, Pool of E295,473,62 carried forward to Fattenhem today).

Plecepot: £179.90. Quadpot: £54.80. Hexham

3.00 (3m holie) 1, Quick March (N Horrocks, 1-4 tav.) 2, Hat Lodge (14-1); 3, Ansaig (12-1) 7 ran 71, 26 E Weymas, Tote E1 80, £1.20, £1 60 DF £3 10 CSF 56 24 ET 80, ET 20, ET 90 DF 23 TO CSF 50 29 3.35 (4m ch) 1, Plank Gair, (R Widneson, 7-1), 2, Cachillon (10-1), 3, Kibby Bank (9-1) 5 wanbusier 5-4 (av 8 ran. 14), 13, M Meach et Tote CT 50 (22,00, 64 60 ET,70 DF 640 70 CSF 667 38 Tricsor 6569 20 240 / O CST LEGY 38 IMBSC 15599 20 4.15 (2m hdle) 1. Double Buck (D O'Solivan, 10-1), 2. Apolics Deughter (4-1), 3. Madge McSplash (11-8 fav. 5 ran 11-1-12 W Kemp Tote 11-14 80 12-80, 12-10 DF 135-20. CSF 12-42-45 US 20. USF £42 45
4.50 (2m 4110yd ch) 1. Dooks Delight IA
5 Smith 14-1), 2 Santa Jet levens lavi, 3. Falcons Flame [7-1]. 10 ran NR. Carley
Lad. Cultere Lako 11, 34 R Fahey Tote
20 60, 23-50, £1 10, £2-40, DF £15-20
USF £28 92, Tricses £113.77

5.25 (3m hdie) 1, Zamhareer (N Hohocks, 4-1), 2, Five Flags (4-1) 3, D'Arbiay Street (5-1) 6 (an 14, 24) R Ford, Tote, 54 (0 52-30, 64 00, DF \$10.29 CSF \$19 17 Placepot: £69.00. Quadpot: £35.70.

Lingfield Park

1.50 (1m) 1 Statistician (Mr A Evans, 11-4 lav., 2, Dart Menace (10-1), 3, Kafi (12-1) 12 ran -4, hal John Berry, 10se, 24-0; 22-10 £4-80, £3-10 DF £60-50, CSF £35-38 Thicas: £296-63 220 (71) 1 Anotatio (Dean Mickeown, 9-2), 2, Sporedy Classac (9-4 lav), 3, Best Quest 6-1), 13 ran '-4, 91 Mrs N Macaulay Tote. £550, £2-40, £1-70, £2-10 DF: £7-10, CSF £14-00 255-60, §1-70, §2-10 DF: £7-10, CSF £14-00 255-60, §1-70, §2-70, §1-70 2.55 (6) 1. Palacegate Touch (P Bradley 5-2) 2. Krystal Mox (evens favir 3 Mutasaw-war (16-1) Bran 11. I'-l J Berry Tote 24 (0. 51 60, 51 00. 53 (0. DF 52.20 CSF 55.2)

Two, 21 to 3 (1) The 22 White 17 Quant, 3-1); 2, Friendly Brave (6-1), 3, Socked (7-4 tay) 9 ran, 15 mk, 17 Mills, Tote 14 30; 52 40, 51.80 5170 DF, 515 90 CSF, 523 69 The cast; \$40.03

casi: 240 (3 4.10 (1m 27) 1, Scraggys Dream (R Co-chrane, 9-4 tav); 2, Thetrysati (5-2), 3, K) Cla Saga (8-1) 12 ran, 114, 31, P Michell Tote v2 80 v2 160, 21 70, 21 60, DF 25 70 CSF 29 05 Tricast £43 18 4.40 (in 4) 1, Barbury (J Golobed 5-2) 2, Space Race (11-4) 3 Sheer Name 15-4 tav) 4 (an NR Martha Reilly 3), 11 J C Do-yer Tota, D4-40 DF 87-00 CSF 58-72. yer total crit 40 Pt 2700 CSF 2872. 8.15 (fm.) , Wallfull Beach, dr. 8 Histo-cott, 12-1) 2, Denbras (7-2) 3, Melomania (12-1) Gadge (4m) 5-2 tav 12 (am. 5, 8 L Moore, 106, 213 80 25 90 £1 20, 8 50 DF 212.00 CSF £51 25 Tricast, £501 86

Placepot: £43.30. Quadpot: £6.60.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: XAIPETE (3.50 Fakenham)

Scotland turn to Hutchison in gamble for goals

SCOTLAND'S search for a Gary McAllister, returns to goalscorer has earned Don Hutchison, of Everton, a place in the squad for the European championship qualifying games with Bosnia Herzegovina and the Czech Republic later this month.

Hutchison, 27, seems certain to make his international debut in one of the two games, to be played in Glasgow on March 27 and 31, his call-up by Craig Brown, the national coach, coming as a reward for his form this season at Goodison Park, where he has been press-ganged into filling a

Goals are as scarce for Everton, the FA Carling Premiership's lowest scorers, as Scotland and Brown has been stripped of the three forwards who played in the World Cup in France, Kevin Gallacher, Gordon Durie and Darren Jackson's have all finished the season early because of injuries. The casualty list extends to central defence, where Colin Hendry, of Rangers, is una-vailable, prompting the introduction of Paul Ritchie, of Heart of Midlothian.

Intriguingly, Hendry's predcessor as national captain.



the international stage after knee surgery and the match with Bosnia, at Ibrox Stadium, will be his first for Scotland since November 1997, when he played against France in St

However, it is the problem of overcoming the severe goal shortage — just five in the three games so far, against the lightweights of Lithuania, Estonia and the Faroe Islands

"We are badly off for strikers," he said yesterday. "It is alarming to have no one who is recognised in that position, because in home games, you need goals. You cannot sit back. It's made worse by the fact that the only one we have left to call on, Billy Dodds, has to miss the Bosnia game through suspension."

Brown has watched Hutchison recently and obtained good reports from Premiership managers, apart from Walter Smith at Everton. "Don is not prolific," Brown, said, "He is more of a provider, but hopefully he can do the job for us.

Hutchison made one appearance for the Scotland B team



in Wales four years ago while he was at Liverpool, but his career hit a nadir at Anfield before he moved on to West Ham United and Sheffield United and then, last season,

"I will be looking for goals from our midfield. Craig Burley and David Hopkin have done it for us before, while Eoin Jess has scored 13 for Aberdeen this season from just behind the attack." Smith said.

That plea to the playmakers may help to inspire McAllister on his return at the age of 34. Before the cruciate ligament injury that kept him out of the World Cup, some supporters were demanding that he be pensioned off.

"McAllister is there on merit, not sentiment," Brown said. "I have seen him twice for Coventry recently and he has been outstanding. Real football peo-ple appreciate McAllister. If he had been English, Howard Wilkinson would have had him in the team against France recently, so highly does

he think of Gary.
"I never wrote him off after his injury but I was afraid he might not be able to attain the level of fitness required. But I would love to see him at Euro 2000 to make up for missing the World Cup..."
As expected, Andy Goram did not receive the call even

though Brown has picked four goalkeepers. These are two important games for us, especially the

Czech one, and it was in the in-

terests of Andy, and the squad.

that they stayed focused on football." Brown said. SCOTLAND SOLIAD: D Douglas (Dunder), J Gould (Celtic), A Main (St Jurnstone), N Buillives (Warbledon), T Boyd (Celtic), C Davidson (Blackburn Rovers), M Efflod (Lecester Chy), P Bitchie (Hamms, D Winder (Everton), D Wingth (Porteen), C Burley (Celtic), I Durrant (Ghreinod, B Ferguson (Pargest), D Hopkin (Lecia Utd), A Johnston (Suiderland), P Lambert (Celtic), G McAllister (Covenity Cay), J McNantars (Celtic), B Dodds (Dunder Utd), D Hatchison (Everton), E Jest



Keane, top, towers above Scholes, the goalscorer, as Manchester United players celebrate the late strike that secured a 1-1 draw in the San Siro stadium

United benefit from bitter experience

THERE WAS a sense about Alex Ferguson on Wednesday night that his earn had completed the hard part, that if the European Cup was an obstacle course then Manchester United had just scaled the giant wall.

The presence in the semi-final draw this afternoon of Dynamo Kiev, Bayem Munich and Juventus - three giants of the game in any generation would suggest quite the opposite, but one knew exactly what the United man-ager meant. In knocking out the mighty Internazionale, his young team had slayed the ogre in their own. minds. They had proved to Europe, but most importantly to themselves, that an English team could overcome an Italian one. "You trust the players," the United manager said, "and perhaps

now they trust themselves." United had never before knocked a side from Serie A out of Europe. Indeed, on six previous visits to the country, they had returned as losers every time and there were times at a raucous. rowdy San Siro when it seemed that the Italian grip might throttle them

once more. As Zanetti hit the post and the ear drums were assaulted by a succession of screams for a penalty. United must have gone through the concerns that FROM MATT DICKINSON IN MILAN

had cost them so dearly in the two years before, when against Borussia Dortmund and then AS Monaco, they had been knocked out by teams of greater belief rather than ability. They were novices stuttering along in a new

language. Now their eloquence is admired throughout the Continent and, while they can be a little loose-tongued as they toy with disaster, they have a sense of confidence and certainty in their work that is the benefit of years of experience as they proved in the I-I sec-ond leg draw. While the arrival of Dwight Yorke and Jaap Stam has im-proved the side, just as vital is that the likes of David Beckham, Gary Neville and Ryan Giggs have now played at least 30 matches in this competition.

One could argue that it has taken them a long time for them to learn their lessons, but at least they have learnt. them well. "We have learnt from previous years," Peter Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, said. "The way we went out against Dortmund and Monaco was down to our own mistakes. We can look back and say that was definitely not the way to do it. Now if the oppo-sition are going to score, they have to

Beaten three times out of four by
Silventus in the past three seasons,

do something special to beat us. Every area of the puch is covered by a highclass player so we are reaching the point where we are there."

They have grown to cope with everything that can be thrown at them even when it includes, as it did at the San Siro, a supermarket load of citrus fruit. Oranges were pelted at them before, during and after the game, and there was also some predictable hurling of bodies from the Italian side. Not surprisingly. Ferguson thought the French referee was wonderful as he ig-nored Schmeichel's collision with

"We knew they would intimidate us and try to get us sent off," Roy Keane, the United midfield player, said, "but you saw when one of their players struck Becks in the face with a ball how we have come through the learning process. It is hard to take, but Becks just walked away." Their composure was to be admired, but equally daunt-ing tests await in the semi-finals when United supporters may find themseives in the unusual position of praying to be paired with Juventus.

Beaten three times out of four by

United are now far from fearful of fac-ing a side that has stumbled through the competition, shedding its coach.
Marcello Lippi, on the way. Only an
85th minute equaliser against Olympiakos in Aibens on Wednesday ensured their passage through, and even a team containing Zidane, Deschamps, Davids and Inzaghi appears out of

Bayern Munich's 6-0 rout of Kaiserslantern over two legs would suggest that they are to be avoided, but United know that they can match the Germans. They drew twice against them in the group phase and only a last-minute rush of blood by Schmeichel cost them victory in Germany. Which leaves Kiev, a technically won-

derful side whose 2-0 victory over Real Madrid on Wednesday proved once again the threat of Schevchenko, possibly the most feared striker in the world, given that Ronaldo is a shadow of himself at present. He may need an operation on his aching knees, but there are rumours in Milan that doctors are not queuing up to operate on him because of the terrible responsibility. It is a horrifying situation for a 22-year-old of such breathtaking talent, but United could be forgiven this week for not giv-ing the Brazilian a second thought.

safety of players

GORDON STRACHAN. players — Barry Quinn and Barry Ferguson, both Irish, and Tynan Scope, an Australian goalkeeper — who have been picked for the Fifa Under-20 world championship in Nigeria that begins in a fortnight. Strachan, worried about possible terrorist attacks, said: "If my son had been picked. I would hope I could change his mind. Sometimes it is braver to be a

Derby County have turned down a £4 million bid from Blackburn Rovers for Lee Carsley, the midfield player. Blackburn, who are eager to add to their midfield resources before the transfer deadline, are expected to make one more offer for Carsley. although Derby's £5.5m valuation could prevent any deal

Keith O'Neill completed a £700,000 move from Norwich City to Middlesbrough last night and goes straight into the squad at Nottingham Forest tomorrow. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

manager, said: "He's strong and quick and, given a good run, I believe he will develop into an excellent player for

Ronnie Ekelund wants to return to Southampton. The 25-year-old Denmark international, who scored five goals in 17 league appearances for Southampton after moving from Barcelona on loan in 1995, is now with OB Odease, of the second division in

■ Darren Eadie, Norwich City's former England Under-21 winger, is likely to be out for the rest of the season after undergoing an operation on Wednesday to cure a knee problem. Eadie, 23, valued at E5 million, had hoped to be back in action by the end of the

■ The Football Association may hold an inquiry into the FA Youth Cup tie between Arsenal and Crystal Palace on Wednesday, in which five players were sent off and a mass brawl took place. Arsenal won the match 1-0.

Strachan fears for | Ginola savours special moment | Taunton cling to

FEW players, even in their mother tongue, can keep an audience of journalists hanging on their every word for the best part of half an hour. David Ginola can do it in a

foreign language. Yesterday, media day at the Tottenham Hotspur training ground ahead of the Worthington Cup final against Leicester City on Sunday, the mercurial Frenchman, looking every inch the contented, relaxed footballer, held court.

He talked about everything: his goal against Barnsley, his past, his future, life under George Graham and the final, Tottenham's first Wembley final appearance for eight

There are moments you treasure for the rest of your career, moments that don't come along often even if you play for 30 years." Ginola said. "After scoring against Barnsley. I knew I had done something unusual. You don't often see a player pick up the ball on the halfway line and dribble past four opponents. I would be pleased if I saw kids

trying the same thing." Ginola rarely takes the credit for anything alone, always paying tribute to his col-leagues. Yet his belief in his By Andrew Warshaw and Chris Moore

ability is abundantly clear. "It will be a lot of proposals," he was a horrible pitch at Barnsley and a horrible crowd. would be Tottenham and I will face or in front of my own fans to do the same thing. I'm not saying I can do it again on Suncouple of players permanently on my back. But if the team

Ginola is particularly proud of having convinced the sceptics that he could work for one of the game's renowned disciplinarians and, before Graham's arrival, that he could

ley and a horrible crowd. What I did shows that I don't have to play on a beautiful surday, especially if there are a win I-O and gets into Europe, I'll be happy."

play in an unsuccessful side.
"I have proved I can work with anyone," he said. "I think I have also proved that, even in a bad situation like last season, I could be positive, that I could cope with playing in a struggling side. I knew when I signed that we were not at the same level as Arsenal or Man-chester United, but I always believed I would be successful at Tottenham."

Spurs fans will be delighted to know that when his contract terminates in two years' time. staying at White Hart Lane is his priority. "I'm sure there

be making that known." Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, fears the threat. of Ginola. He believes that the Spurs winger has been motivated back to his best form after being left out of the France squad that lifted the World Cup last summer. When you are looking for

22 Frenchmen, I can't believe that Ginola was not in their World Cup squad," O'Neill



Ginola: praise for others

said. "There's no question they had an outstanding group of super-talented players. But I can't understand how Bernard Diomeda, for example, was preferred ahead of him."

O'Neill worked alongside Ginola as a television pundit during France 98 and recognised his hurt. "He kept a stiff upper lip," O'Neill said. "But I got very close to him and could sense how sad and downheart-

ed he really was."
O'Neill is still agonising over whether to man-mark Ginola on Sunday. Two years ago, when Leicester won the competition by beating Middiesbrough in a replayed final, O'Neill used Pontus Kaa-mark, his Sweden international, to shadow successfully Juninho in both matches.

"Juninho was playing bril-liantly at the time and I'm not surprised people are making comparisons with Ginola," O'Neill said. "But the two of them play in different positions and I'm not so sure it's so straightforward to man-mark Ginola, especially when he's flitting from one side of the field to the other.

"In any case, the way he's playing, I think he's clever enough to wangle his way out of any situation."

glimmer of hope

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

TAUNTON TOWN know they must throw caution to the wind to overcome the 3-0 deficit from the first leg of the FA Carlsberg Vase semi-final before an all-ticket crowd at Tiverion Town tomorrow.

The stunning defeat inflicted by the Vase holders rocked a side that had twice beaten their rivals in Screwlix Direct League matches this season while sprinting clear at the top in a 25-match unbeaten

We've left ourselves a mountain to climb but we won't give up hope as an early goal could be vital," Russell Musker, the Taunton manager, said. "Scoring isn't usually a problem for us. Indeed, last Saturday was only the second time in more than 40 matches this season in which we have failed to score."

Martyn Rogers, the Tiver-ton manager, felt his team profited from going into the first match as underdogs. The lads had taken a bit of flack following the league re-sult a few weeks ago," he said. "As a result they were motivated and raring to go for the

first leg, which meant I had II players operating very close to their full potential. There is no way we're going to sit back so. we'll approach the match in the same manner as we approached the first. If we do score, we'll have a great opportunity to kill it off."

If Taunton feel they have a glimmer of hope. Thame United must be ready to bow to the inevitable when they take on Bedlington Terriers at Windmill Road.

A hat-trick by John Milner and two goals by Richie Bond, a substitute, gave the Arnott Insurance Northern League side a 5-0 win in the home leg and Keith Perry, the Bedlington manager, was surely guilty of understate-ment when he said: "We are in the driving seat."

The £20,000 guaranteed to semi-finalists in the FAW Premier Cup eluded Merthyr Tydfil under Rober Gibbins, their new manager, when they lost 1-0 at Barry Town on Tuesday night. Barry meet in-ter CableTel and Wrexham play Cardiff City in the two-legged semi-finals.

SNOW REPORTS

CIUB	Depth (cm) L U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	S Off/p	West (5pi		Lest szige
Austria Kitzbühel Obergurgi Söll	40 165 50 280 60 160	Good Good Fair	Stushy Open Stushy	Heavy Varied Heavy	Sun Fine Sun	316	11/3 8/3 7/3
St Anton France	80 470	Good	Shushy	Spring	Sun	5	8/3
Alpe d'Huez Argentiere Avariez	149 340 80 260 230 250	Hard Good Pair	Open Hard Hard	Spring Spring Varied	Sun . Sun . Fine	- 1 5 1	8/3 8/3 8/3
Flaina La Clusaz La Plagne	125 516 65 280 155 250	Good Fair Fair	Hard- Stusing Open	Varied Spring	Sun Sun Fair	503	8/3 8/3 8/3
La Tania Las Arcs	105 250- 142 325	Pair Faar	Skishy Open	Spring Varied	Sun	3.	8/3 8/3
Megeve Méribel Tignes	90 275 80 248 146 260	Hard.	. Hard		Sun Sun Sun	0 3 -1	6/8 9/3 8/3
Val Thorens Val d'Isere Italy	150 300 100 280	Good:	Open :		Sun	7	8/3 10/3
Cervinia Conina	140 210 60 125 76 196	Good Fair Good	MUTT	Crusty Spring Varied	Fine Sun Fine	1 4 0	11/3 7/3 8/3
Livigno Switzerland Crans Montana	50 290	Good	Hend	Varied:	Fee:	A	8/3
Davos Grindelwald Klosters	145 295 - 20 250 90 290	Good Good	Open Hard Open	Varied : History Varied	Sun Fine Sun	6 6	-7/3 -6/3 -9/3
Murren Saas Fee	90 350 80 215	Good .	Open Antificial	Spring Spring	Fine	5 3	6/3 11/3
St Moritz Verbier Villars		Good Hard Good	Hard Slushy Hard	Yaried Spring Spring	Pine Sun Sun	1 2	6/3 11/3 8/3
Wengen United States	70 150	G000	Open	Spring	Fine	3	6/3
Aspen Deer Valley	135 158 228 255	Good Good	Open	Varied Varied	Fine Fair	. 3	13/3 12/3

RUGBY LEAGUE

Monie builds up the pressure on Rhinos

By Christopher Irvine

THERE is little love lost between Leeds Rhinos and Wigan Warriors. John Monie, the Wigan coach, stoked the fires ahead of their second meeting in five weeks - at Headingley tonight — when he said how he was sick of reading how good Leeds are.

"We beat them last time to win the league and we deserved to." Monie said. "All I ever see when I pick up a paper is Leeds, but they still haven't won anything. We'll be doing our utmost to see they don't win the Super League and Bradford will be doing their best to make sure they don't win the Challenge Cup." As if the rivalry between them was

not intense enough, Monie admitted

that "there is a lot of feuding building

up" - a reference, among other

things, to the recent bitter exchange

of words between Peter Norbury, the

Wigan chairman, and Gary

Hetherington, the Leeds chief execu-

tive, about allegations that Wigan

tried to unsettle Terry Newton, who the Rhinos have switched from hooker in a re-shuffled second row. Even though their semi-final with Bradford on Sunday week has dictated the decision not to risk Adrian Morley, Richie Blackmore and Marcus St Hilaire, there is every incentive

for a supposedly weakened side to re-peat their 28-18 cup defeat of Wigan. Leeds will also be without Anthony Farrell, their most impressive peform-er that day, who also hopes to have recovered from a hamstring injury for the Bradford match. The semi-final could do more than anything to take the Rhinos' eye off the ball for the first

of three league meetings with Wigan. Simon Haughton is expected to recover from a hamstring injury for inclusion on the Wigan bench, but Rob Ball stands by. Otherwise, Monie retains the starting side that demolished Hull Sharks in their opening league game.

HOCKEY

break games

PREMIER division clubs in the men's National League face a testing weekend with a double programme that could rearrange the top four po-sitions (Sydney Friskin writes).

Cannock, Southgate and Reading could well finish in that order, but fourth-placed Canterbury are experiencing problems. Beeston, only five points behind, are too close for comfort and the teams meet on Sunday with Beeston the hosts. If Canterbury lose, they will struggle to reach the play-offs to decide the champion-

ship, with only one game remaining. Reading, who visit Guildford tomorrow and play Bournville at home on Sunday, will field the same side that defeated Old Loughtonians 7-3 last week. Southgate can expect stern opposition from Teddington. but on Sunday they will visit strug-gling Hounslow. The bottom two teams, East Grinstead and Brooklands, play each other on Sunday.

BOWLS

Top five clubs | Passionate Scots take title face make or with win over auld enemy

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

SCOTLAND'S women bowlers completed a remarkable sequence of suc-cess when they defeated England 110-106 to retain the British team title

in Belfast yesterday.

At Bournemouth, less than a week ago, Scotland's men won four out of the five British titles as well as the team championship, and the only title that did not go Scotland's way in Belfast was the singles - in which they were not represented. No wonder that the stirring strains

of The Flower of Scotland could be heard from the spectators' gallery as the Scots capered and cavorted their way to the title. Skill-wise, there was little between

the sides, but Scotland played with more joie de vivre. Passion tri-umphed over precision as the energer-ic Scottish skips attacked heads and converted unpromising situations. The result was in doubt, however,

right up until the last bowl as Eng-

land, who led briefly at the three

shots after 125 of the 126 ends. Jayne Roylance won 32-14 and Ber-yl Alderson scored a last-end five to win 20-19, but Edna Bessell narrowly failed to collect the four shots that England needed to snatch the Clara

quarter stage, closed to within three

Johns Trophy from Scotland's grasp.
The England team, which included nine newcomers, were disappointed, but at least Helen Walker, who was recalled by the selectors this year but went unrecognised by her team-mates when she arrived in Belfast. wore a broad smile.

A former chocolate-taster from York, she has lost 124st since she made her international debut three

years ago, when she tipped the scales at 24st 9lb.

Ireland turned on a performance worthy of St Patrick's Day—albeit a day late—and gunided the wooden day late - and avoided the wooden spoon when they beat Wales 135-100.

Giovanell return for

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the first the waters. The first only

Dallaglio keen to strengthen the French connection

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO and Jeremy Guscott should laglio, the England captain against France in the Five Nations Championship at Twickenham tomorrow,

playing the French more than once a season, while Guscott, despite nine previous appearances against them, has yet to come to terms with the quality of their back play.

Fear of the unknown has emanated like steam from the England camp this week, from Clive Woodward downwards. In his first season as coach, Woodward was given his comeuppance in Paris at the start of the 1998 championship and wonders in what mood France will approach Twickenham after their defeat by

Dallaglio, acknowledging the changes forced on France by injury — the latest of them to Thomas Lombard, the Stade Français wing, who gives way to Christophe (Dominici, his club colleague,



string — emphasised their strength in depth. They seem to have a conveyor belt of ballhandling forwards and backs who can run great lines with instinct and flair." Dallaglio

"Essentially, their squad is that which won two grand slams in a row. People are quick to criticise a side with those achievements behind

Giovanelli set to return for Italy

By MARK SOUSTER

massimo giovanelli, the Italy captain, is certain today to be picked to play against Wales in Treviso tomorrow after an eight-week ban for stamping was over-turned on a technicality in

Giovanelli had been sent off at Murrayfield 13 days ago for foul play on Eric Peters, the Scotland No 8. The decision to acquit Giovanelli has incensed the Scottish Rugby Union, whose chief-executive. Bill Watson, said yesterday: We will not rest until this appalling act is justly penal-

ised for the good of the game." Giovanelli was sent off by tobert Davies, the Welsh referee, after the intervention of Paul Adams, the touch judge who spotted the offence. The player was suspended by Paul Mauriac, the match commissioner from France, at Murrayfield the same night. following Five Nations Cham-

pionship guidelines. On Wednesday, however, the ban was overturned, because the international was not part of the championship. Yet the decision was taken by a Five Nations appeals tribunal which, as far as Scotland

insult to injury. Watson said: We don't expect that procedural matters should override the fact that the referee and touch judge considered Mr should dismissed from the field for an act of foul play." As discussions continued

last night between the Five Nations and the Scottish and Italian unions it was suggested that the incident might result in a criminal investigation. The Lord Advocate, Scotland's, senior law officer, has insisted repeatedly that if sporting bodies do not police themselves then the authoriseveral instances of acts of foul play in both rugby and football that have led to a criminal investigation by the Proc-

Four years ago. Scott McMillan, of Preston Lodge, a lock forward, was jailed for six months after being convicted of assault on a Musselburgh prop.

The charity match in support of Disability Sport, England, due to be played at RAF Halton on Sunday, has been switched to Tring RFC.

playing New Zealand more For others, the rarity of inter-nationals is what gives them an added zest and the Five Nations its particular quality, never more so than this season, when every match has been so hard-fought. Guscott, whose first game against France was in 1990, a time when England had established a stranglehold on the fix-ture, emphasised the pleasure he takes when the blue shirts

played only once a year. We

have a great deal to learn from this fixture. It's like the lessons

Australia have learnt from

are in opposition. "We could go out with an idea of the French game-plan and they could play in a com-pletely different way," he said. "That's the scary thing about them, you never know what to expect. No other team in the world plays like them.

"On video, their lines of running look quite natural, but when you are in a game the ball they give has to be so full of confidence because sometimes they are passing blind. The way they attack the blind side is different. So our guys coming new to this fix-ture will have to learn about it for themselves."

It may not be mere coincidence that England have not beaten France since the game went professional. In a sevenyear run between 1988 and 1995, Brian Moore, the booker, made a speciality of igniting the tempers of the French with barbed comments before the game. "In a professional era, that's close to bringing the game into disrepute." Guscott said, and when they finally did stop our winning run, it was a huge relief to them.

They have the knack of producing something unbelievable, something very special. It's good that they do, because that is what makes them different. That's why I enjoy playing them. It's seat-of-the-pants

A capacity crowd of around 10,000 is expected for the A intries at Redruth today as the Rugby Football Union continues its policy of taking representative matches around the

The 1.30pm kick-off has allowed escorted school parties to attend and Terry Burwell, director of Twickenham Services, said: "We are reaping the benefits of a policy which invites different areas to commit themselves to marketing the game successfully, and where the game can be used as a promotional vehicle."

Samaranch enjoys Olympic high life



Samaranch displays the 1998 IOC annual report that reveals the extent of his lavish expenses; most athletes are not so fortunate, however

THE International Olympic Committee (IOC) has total savings of £135 million and £137,000 was spent by its president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, on living expenses here in 1998, official accounts showed yesterday.

For the first time in six years the

IOC has published its annual balance sheets, which display the wealth of the movement that ended its 108th session yesterday in apparent harmony.

Samaranch said yesterday that he was surprised at the almost unanimous vote of confidence that he had received -- 86 out of the 90 ballots cast - since he had expected that there would be considerably more opposition to him staying on as president.

He has spent an estimated three months abroad on IOC business in 1998 when, like other IOC members, he received travel, hotel and meal exFROM JOHN GOODBODY IN LAUSANNE

penses and a daily allowance for outof-pocket expenses. However, his hotel suite at the luxurious Palace Hotel remains permanently booked for his stays here in the Olympic City. In 1997 the total bill was only £600 less.

News of his lavish lifestyle depressed Audley Harrison, the Commonwealth super heavyweight boxing champion, who is £7,000 in debt but who last week turned down a professional contract worth £150,000 in the first year because of his determination to win a gold medal in Sydney.

Harrison, who is ranked No 3 in the world, spoke for many of the world's athletes yesterday. There is a huge problem between administration and competitors," he said. "Even in amateur boxing the international body has vast amounts of money. They are

creaming it off higher up."
Harrison, who received a £7,000lottery grant for the Commonwealth Games last September and is waiting for it to be renewed from May 1, said: "A few people hold the purse strings to this vast amount of money. It is the nature of these people that they want to enjoy it for themselves."

The honorarium has just been doubled to £660 for the 11 members of the executive board when they attend meetngs. This may last only a few days, but can be several weeks during the Games. This money is viewed as partially compensating members for loss of earnings from their jobs.

Much of the IOC's money, which is split between the Olympic Foundation,

in which there is £40 million, and its own account, where there is £95 million in savings, is advance television

payments for future games. Dick Pound; an IOC vice-president, argued yesterday that it cannot spend the money because it "may have to be reimbursed if the Olympics are cancelled or diminished in any way. There is also the fear that the boom in staging the Games may burst and the

IOC needs to have financial reserves. On the final day of this emergency session the 91 IOC members agreed that there will be an electoral college that will select a shortlist of two for the 2000 Winter Games. The six cities are Helsinki, Finland; Clagenfurt, Austria; Poprad-Tatry, Slovakia; Sion, Switzerland; Turin, Italy and Zakopane, Poland. The decision will be

EQUESTRIANISM: 'POLICE HORSE' LAYS DOWN LAW WITH FINE DISPLAY OF SPEED JUMPING

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR

JOHN WHITAKER made an auspicious start to the World the Irish-bred Diamond Cliff - a horse that he thought initially was too big for him won the 50-strong Indoor Brabant event after a masterly display of speed jumping on

the huge, long-striding horse. Standing more than 17 hands high, and nicknamed the "police horse" because of his size, the 11-year-old gelding made light work of the twisty, ten-fence course to relegate Peter Geerink, of Holland, on Damiro, to second place by nine-hundredths of a second.

Whitaker's Diamond shows real polish

"He was almost turning too fast for me," a delighted Whitaker said. "You wouldn't call him a speed horse to look at, but he can do the job." Diamond Cliff, owned by Martin Donoghue and Mar-

tin Walsh, has been with Whitaker for 18 months and underlined his scope with a victory in the Windsor Grand Prix last May. Two months later he sustained a severe nosebleed while competing in Rotterdam and was rested for five months. The break proved timely. Since returning to the circuit last month, he has been placed regularly and was third in the competitive Paris

Grand Prix last week. Despite his rapid improvement, though, Whitaker has decided that he is still too inexperienced to ride in the World Cup qualifier on Sunday, the main event of this four-day meeting. Instead, Diamond

Cliff will contest the Grand Prix on the same day, while Heyman, on which Whitaker was eighth in Paris last week, goes for the qualifier.

Robert Smith had the fastest time in the class on Senator For The Best but, turning in sharply to the final double, he incurred a frustrating eight faults when the last two fences fell. Smith, who refers to the gelding as "a bit of a wild card", remains confident that Grand Prix on Sunday, in which, after his win in Amsterdam, he has the chance of a £30,000 bonus.

Belgium, whose top horse Fior succumbed to a severe bout of colic last week, had some timely consolation when he won the Indoor Brabant Stakes on Shurlands Governor, a former winner of the Speed Horse of the Year event at Wembley.

"He's always very competitive, a real trier," Mathy, the son of one of Europe's largest horse dealers, said of the 12-year-old gelding, who won by a comfortable two-second margin from McLain Ward, of the United States, on Alegro.

Italy should shed light on new dawn in Wales

follow rugby in Wales know by now that the team is making some kind of statement either that they are frustratingly changeable, or that they may be starting to offer something different. To confirm the first proposition will only take until tomorrow, when after the exotic extravagance of France, we shall see how far down from the clouds - or Wales have come when they play Italy in Treviso.

The second might take a while longer to prove, if ever, What is certain is that the team has aroused curiosity. and not only in Wales. Some may not feel deliriously happy when the Welsh achieve a good result, but at least they Laill want to know what the Welsh are up to. Better to be looked over, as they say hereabours, rather than overlooked, which has been the Welsh misfortune for too long. Wales followers have been

here before, and on many occasions, bright new dawns that have proved to be neither new nor bright. Ever since 1988, ten years after Wales's last triple crown triumph in 1979, successive victories or the championship win in 1994 have heralded a sense of optimism that the dismal record of the last couple of decades may be over. It has never been fulfilled: tints of occasional colourful brilliance have been overshadowed by a grey

mediocrity. Some believe that it may be different now, although results do not support this point of view. This season, of the five fixtures played, only two have been won, not





Rugby Union Commentary

enough to call for a street party, although after Paris you could not blame anyone who did. But having enjoyed the thrills of that game and savoured the unexpected victory, the question remains as to whether it was another flash in the pan.

The remarkable point about the win against France was

the manner in which it was achieved. Graham Henry, the New Zealander who coaches the Wales team, holds strong views about the way the game should be played and has put them into practice, as he did when he promoted the running, attacking game while he was coach to Auckland. It is one thing to do this in New Zealand, where confidence is never less than high, but quite another to promote it in a nation whose rugby psyche has been persistently battered. Lesser coaches, having lost

their first two matches in the

Five Nations Championship.

based on a handling game.

would have retreated into

their shell and tried to play a defensive game. "Shy does not win you matches. Bold does," he says. He lives by this. That Henry should pursue

his attacking policy in the face of adverse results and critical comment may be due to the fact that he is an outsider. The tradition and history of the Five Nations Championship can often be burdensome. The weight of neighbourly conflict forces a contracted vision and inhibits a broader perspective. Henry's view is not so distorted, neither does he carry any baggage from the

If the importance of the Five Nations Championship and the passion that attends it has taken him by surprise, as he admits, it has not deflected him from his purpose. The propaganda of envy devaluing the championship, which has emerged from the southern hemisphere, is something that Henry has been forced to reconsider. In return, his hard-nosed attitude, allied to his expansive mood, has

enhanced the tournament. To give a sense of belief to a demoralised Wales team, which was their condition after the Ireland deleat, and to persuade them not to deviate from their style was a significant achievement. Yet, there were suggestions in the previous matches that Wales were attempting to play in a style ambitiously different from the other home countries. The question was whether the ambition was beyond them

and, with a fragile team, whether it still is.

CYCLING: Police in Bologna questioned Abraham Olano, the world yesterday in connection with reigning world time trial champion refused to answer reporters' questions when he

IN BRIEF

Injury blow for **Thomas**

SPORT

ATHLETICS: Iwan Thomas. the Commonwealth 400 metres champion was expected to return to Britain from Johannesburg today after an ankle injury in training. The Welshman, a regular competitor on the South African summer circuit, was due to compete at the high-altitude Rulmsig Stadium track near Johannesburg tomorrow.

METRALL: England have drafted Southampton goal defence Kelly Oxlade into the Under-17 squad to defend the European title in the championships which begin in Cardiff next Thursday. Overlooked in the selection last autumn, Oxlade has won promotion after showing great technical improvement

this year. CRICKET: Sam Loxton, one of Il surviving "Invincibles" from Don Bradman's 1948 Australia side that completed an unbeaten tour of England. is to auction his cherished baggy green cap to raise money to aid cancer research. It is expected to fetch about

time-trial champion. a doping inquiry. The Can Wales continue to play a superior game and go on and win a series of matches? Italy may give them some idea.

CRICKET: NEW ZEALAND STAGE STUBBORN RECOVERY AFTER STICKY START TO THIRD TEST

South Africa fail to exploit early gains shortly before the close when

WELLINGTON (first day of five; New Zealand won toss): New Zealand have scored 211 for six wickets against South

A PARTNERSHIP of 145 for the fifth wicket between Gary Stead and Chris Harris pulled New Zealand out of trouble on the opening day at the Basin Reserve. They had been re-duced to \$8 for four before Stead and Harris combined to grind down the pace attack. Harris never looked happy

against a barrage of shortpitched bowling, but Stead used the pace of the ball off an excellent batting pitch to collect singles and boundaries behind square on both sides of the wicket.

The second new ball accounted for Stead when he was magnificently caught by Shaun Pollock off the bowling of Steve Elworthy after batting

210 minutes for his 68. Elworthy, deputising for the injured Allan Donald, collected his fourth wicket of the day

(Dyrramo Kiev win 3-1 on agg), Internazion-ale I Man Uid I (Man Uid win 3-1 on agg). Kasansisutem (I Bayem Munich 4 (Bayem Munich win 6-0 on agg): Olympialios I (Ju-ventus I (Juventus win 3-2 on agg)

vertus 1 (Juventus vm 3-2 on agg)
MATTONNMIDE CONFERENCE: Forest
Green 1 Yeovil 2.
DR MARTTENS LEAGUE: Mickland divialon: Paget 0 Moor Green 1 Southern divialon: Brackley 0 Tealook 1
WELSH CUP: Cuarter-final replay.
Conver 1 Americand (2)

stotz Paget Ulifort Green 1 Southern divi-sions Brackley 0 Boldock 1 Southern divi-sions Brackley 0 Boldock 1 WELSH CUP: Consider-final repixty 0 MICHLAND LEAGUE Clachrecudden 2 Kedn 2 Hantly 2 Fraserburgh 1, Rothes 7 Peterhead 3. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION. Prast divisions: Beredford 1 Norwich 4. Brighton 1 Wembledon 1; Cambridge 3 Southampton 4, Gillingham 1 West Ham 1, Luton 3 Wycombe 1, Oxford 2 Bernet 0, Peterborough 1 Bournemough 1; Weiford 3 Outers Park Rangers 2 SCHWEPPS ESSEX SEMIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers 2 Concord 1.

man, edged to Kallis at second Harris became unwell during the last session, because of the effects of dehydration on a hot, summy day, but recovered

Daniel Vettori, the nightwatch-

and will resume with 66 runs

to his name after 225 minutes

at the crease. The South Africa bowlers were supported by fine slip catching, Jonty Rhodes's effort to remove Bryan Young being

New ZEALAND: First Innings
J Home c Cullman to Policock
A Young to Rhodes to Railis
G Twees or Boucher to Elevathy
J Astle to Elevathy
F Stead or Policock to Elevathy
L Vetton to Kallis to Elevathy
C Berry more and Catas (b 18, no 3). 211
Total (8 wids). 211
Total (8 wids). 211
ToJ.Nash, S.B.Doul and S.B.O'Connor lo bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-32, 3-57, 4-58, 5-203, 6-207.
BOWLING: Pollock: 22-10-30-1; Elworthy.
21-7-58-4; Kails: 20-5-44-1; Kusener.
15-7-33-0; Adams 7-2-12-0; Comp. 5-3-18-0.
SOUTH AFRICA: G Kristen, H.H Gobbs, J.H Kails, D.J. Quiffrant, "W.J. Cronte, J.N. Prodes, S.M. Pollock, † M.V. Boucher, I. Rusener, S.Elworthy, P.R. Adams.
Umpires S. Wenteberaghasen (India) and

FOR THE RECORD

BUDWISSER LEAGUE: Birtinghem Bullets 91 Edinburgh Rodie 82: Wortning Sears 85 Derby Storm 100. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 118 Los Angeles Cisopers 84. Phila-delphia 114 Indiana 110; Atlanta 85 Marm-96, Charlotte 119 Phoens 111, Detroit 101 Toronto 103 New Jersey 86, Dalkas 87. Orlando 103 Chicago 97 Dermay 105 Hou-ston 114, Golden State 78 Sen Antonio 82.

BASKETBALL

BOWLS

BELFAST: Women's home kelemations indioor championaship; helsing by Wales 135-100 (teland slops first J Mulhotland bt L Evens 23-13, D Bard bt D Rowlands 27-15, J Evens bt J Addand 24-21; A McGunness bt A Dahnon 23-17, C O'Gor-man bt S Oliver 24-13, S Bailie lost to M Tanner 14-21)

EQUESTRIANISM

'S HERTOGENBOSCH, Holland: World Cup Show: Indoor Brabent Prise: 1, Damond Call J. Whitaker, GBJ 0 penalties in 50 51 sec. 2. Demirro (P Gesmit, Holl) 0 in 54.48. Indoor Brabant Stakes: 1, Sturlands Governor (F Methy, Bel) 0 in 51 23, 2 Alegro (M Ward, US) 0 in 53 24, 3. Gordon (E Tacker, Holl) 0 in 53 49.

FOOTBALL Cup Winners' Cup Quarter-final, second leg L MOSCOW (6) 1 M HAJFA (0) 0 Telugginor 72 (pen) 16,000 (Lokomotiv Moscow win 4-0 on app)

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP: Querter-finals, second leg: Dynamo Kiev 2 Real Medical 0

FOOTBALL FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLI-ANCE: Third division: Wrestern v Stress-ANCE THE GIVEN AND LEAGUE buy (1 0) FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division: Sheboure v Sigo (7 45), Walerbot v Stempok (7 45). FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE Under-19: NOT IM FOREST V ASSETSE (2 0)

England v France

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC
LEARRE Premier division: Swendon
Supernarine 0 Cremostes Academy 0
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTH
LEAGUE: First division: Guisborough 2
Bringham Synthona 0
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division:
Notion Forest 2 Derby 2 First division: Bolton 0 Transmere 1, Middlestrough 5 Wolvey-hampton 0 Second division: Blacipool 0 Newcaste 1, Huddersfeld 2 York C. Hother-ham 1 Shewsbury 3 Scarborough 2 Nega County 0, Wreafram 5 Languh 3 Third division: Bury 1 Hulb 0, Chester 1 Carlste 1, Chesteried 1 Hartgeool 1 Langue Causter-finel: Derlington 0 Bractord 2.
URUSET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First division: Cowes Sports 5 Gosport 0: Hamble ASSC 1 Whichaut 2
MEMERYA SPARTIAN SOUTH MID-LANDS LEAGUE: Premier division:

FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION tional mate England v France (at Redruth, 1.30).... Italy v Wales (at Rovigo, 7.30).... Scotland v Ireland (at Myreside, 7.0).... Under-21 international matches

Scotland v Ireland (at Bridgehaugh, Stirling, 6.30) CLUS MATCH: Harlequers v Bignitz (7:30). RUGBY LEAGUE

OTHER SPORT

JJB Super League

Leads v Wigan (7.30).

BASKETBALL: Budwelser League: Millon Keynes Loris v Leoester Richas (7.30); Sheffield Storics v Memotrester Gents (7.45); HOCKEY: Women's home regions tournament (at DISC, Oundes); Under-18; Scotland v Ireland (1.30), England v Wales (3.15). Under-18; Scotland v Ireland (10.0); Wales v England (11.45).

TCE HOCKEY: Salconda play-off championsitize Gento By Newspette Sentances V

Brache Sparis 3 Welthern Abbey 3: Bucking-ham Athletic 3 Million Keynes 3, Toddington 0 Brook House 0 BANKS'S BRIEWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Smethweck ? Bandon ? Topon 3 Bustleholme 1; Wolverhampton 0 Live 3 CLUB MATCH: Boulogne 2 Liverpool 1. DUTCH LEAGUE: Cambuur Leauwarden 1 Feyenoord 5; NAC Breds 0 RKC Weekelijk 2. Feyencord 5; NAC Breda 0 Fortune Satard 3 Utrecht 2

HOCKEY ALDERSHOT: Services champions! Veterons: Royal Navy 2 RAF () Junio Poyel Navy 4 RAF 4 Sentions: Royal Na RAF 3. Women: Army 3 Royal Navy 2

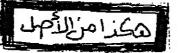
ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL); Tempe Bay 0 Pitisburgh 2, Washington 2 Dallas 1 (OT); Detrol 3 Procents 4, Torcrito 1 Boston 4; Cri-capo 3 Calgray 1; Edmonton 1 New Jersey 4, Anzharm 2 Ottawa 2, San Jose 4 Florida 2

RUGBY LEAGUE NORTHERN FORD PREMERSHIP: Featherstone 28 Wildres 12, Whiteleven 24 Lancashire Lynx 12, Hull KR 8 Oldham 8.

RUGBY UNION ANGLO-WELSH CLUB MATCH: GOLDS-Ter 25 Cardig 30

SAILING CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE-Leg 3c (Shanghai to Hong Kong, with miles to Innehi!: 1. Ariet (A Thomson) 405, 2. Anti-ope (K Harris) 412: 3. Tasping (N Parangi) 415: 4, Chrysolite (T Hadges) 422; 5, Senca, (R Dean) 425; 6, Memerus (B Solars) 442; 7, Thermopylae (M Tod) 470

CLUB MATCH: Richmond XV 41 Royal Navy 17,

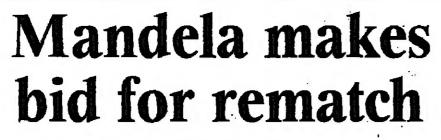


ennox Lewis flew into London yesterday and called on Evander Holyfield to give him the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) belts the world thinks are rightfully his. Lewis, the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion. once again said that Holyfield should admit that he was beaten in the bout for the undisputed world heavyweight championship in New York last weekend, which was scored a draw. It was time the warrior started being a sportsman and did the

right thing.

Lewis said: "If Evander the chould Holyfield is a man he should admit that he got heaten and give me my belts. But he is not that kind of character. There were [American] journalists who were saying that I have no heart. Now they have all turned around. They realise that I won the fight, that Holyfield is holding my belts. They are actually my belts.

"I have answered many questions about myself and there are other questions and I will answer them as well. It was weird to see so many people coming up and saying I won. The public got hurt because they came to see a champion crowned and they were



disappointed they did not."
While Holyfield considers his next move and Lewis's management tries to get Holyfield back in the ring for a rematch, Nelson Mandela has stepped into the row. The South African President has offered to stage the bout in South Africa for the Mandela Belt, which will be for the undisputed title. The belt, which has been designed with the help of the South African mint, will be made of 22-carat gold and cost \$3 million. In New York, government

agencies have started invest-igations into allegations of cor-ruption by officials involved in the Lewis-Holyfield bout at Madison Square Garden. A grand jury has been convened to see whether criminal pro-

ceedings are warranted. Panos Eliades, the head of Panix, the London promotion company behind Lewis, said that everyone involved in the



Lewis poses with a photo of the proposed Mandela Belt

promotion at the Garden had been subpoenzed, including Seth Abraham, the president of Time Warner Sport, Lou DiBella, his vice-president, Don King, the promoter, the presidents of the WBC, the WBA and the IBF, and the three judges. Meanwhile, it has been reported that Eugenia Williams, the judge who scored the fight in favour of Holyfield, filed bankruptcy papers six weeks

Eliades said the Lewis team would not be waiting for the verdicts of the different investigating bodies, and would be going ahead with talks with Holyfield and promoters for the rematch. He believes that if Holyfield does intend to fight, he would not step into the ring before September or October.

"We are discussing terms with Holyfield," Eliades said. "He has said he wants a rematch. I don't know if he means it. He has asked for more money than he received

Don King would not be in-volved with the next promo-tion because according to Eliades, he broke his contract by not putting up letters of credit-for the Lewis-Holyfield fight and HBO had to step in. "We

don't want King as promoter. We need an independent pro-moter," Eliades said.

The people who have been put forward are Madison Square Garden, and they have agreed to promote. They are looking at the Yankee Stadium, which holds 60,000. We are looking at different locations. As well as South Africa.

Las Vegas and Britain.
"Nelson Mandela is willing to find the money. So far, the South African offer is by far the best, double other bids. Nelson Mandela is shocked at what happened with Lennox. He wants to put things right." Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, has had talks with Tony Banks, the Minister for

Sport, and was thinking of staging the bout at Wembley or Cardiff. "Cardiff would like it in September. Their stadium holds 75,000 and the roof can keep out the weather."

Lewis's lawyers have petitioned the three boxing organisations to declare both the fighters mandatory challeng-ers. That could force Holyfield to meet Lewis for a purse put up by a promoter if the two fighters cannot agree terms. If Holyfield refused then, he would be stripped of his titles.

SRIKUMAR SEN

New challenge fits the bill



Catley and his fellow boxers will have their stamina tested

Choose a film for the

way you feel tonight.

Flubber

Amistad

Chasing Amy

Boogle Nights

Men In Black

Sky Premier at 8,005m

Sky Premier at 10.00pm

Sky Premier 3 at 3,000 n.

Sky Premier 3 at 10,00pm

Sky Premier 4 at 7,00pm

Sky Moviemax at 9.30pm

Sky Moviernax 3 at 11,00pm

Days Of Heaven

FilmFour at 8.00pm

skydigital) TV as you want it.

08702 42 42 42 The Cincinnati Kid

bius 50 more.

That Thing You Do

Speed 2: Cruise Control

Sky Premier Widescreen at 8.00pm

Jackie Chan's First Strike

Romy & Michele's Reunion

The Full Monty

One Fine Day

The English Patient

Sky Box Office, starting every 15 mins

Sky Box Office, starting every 30 mins

Sky Bax Office, starting every 30 mins

The Wings Of The Dove

Sky Box Office, starting every 60 mins

Sky Box Office, starting every 60 mins

David Powell looks forward to a contest that will settle an old argument



FOR those who do not know their abductors from their adductors, their gluteus maximus from their gluteus min-imus, there will be no active part to play in the X Zone at the NEC in Birmingham this weekend. Casual spectators should prepare for a bewildering experience. So many fit people, so much high-tech gym equipment. Leave your flab at the door. If only,

For all but a few, the body beautiful does not come easy. High-performance fitness is hard-earned. Take Hywel Davies, the organisers' tip to win the men's individual title. Around his job as a teacher, Davies trains mornings and evenings. "Two hours in the gym every night, a 30-minute run in the mornings, three to five hours' cycling or running at weekends," he said.

While the inter-sports team challenge will feature some of Britain's leading sportsmen and women - Harlequins and Bath from rugby union, Leeds Rhinos from rugby league, Frank Warren's boxers and the England women's squad

among them — it is the winners of the open competitions who will be able to claim to be Britain's fittest man and woman. Davies obliged to enter. He thought he held the undisputed title already, but when

Esprit, a marketing company, decided to enter the fray, Davies was cor-nered. With the

publicity the X Zone is getting, anybody who wins is going to go round saying he is Britain's fittest man." Davies said. "I do not want anybody claiming that without me having a go." A health and fitness magazine — the publication whose competition Davies won has accused the organisers of plagiarising its event. This is another title I need to confirm my place," Davies said. "I have won everything else

there is to win." Michael Smithwick, managing director of Esprit, argues that the X Zone is the best attempt yet to find Britain's fittest people. He claims that, by promoting the X Zone through 2,700 health clubs and The Times, he has the strongest claim yet. However, Mark McKeon, editor of Ultra-Fit magazine, said: "The Ultra-Fit X-Training Challenge is far superior to the X Zone because the former tests all components of fitness in a progressive, systematic manner."

The X Zone involves ten gymnasium-based disciplines and takes the form of race competition, with heats, semi-finais and finals over two days. "No professional sportsman wins easily on material.



Cullen hopes to shatter a few myths about hockey players

would get anywhere near the guy who wins this," Smith-

Davies said: "The X Zone is the best all-round test of aerobic fitness because it has got cycling, rowing, stepping and running, but there is no strength involved." This may count against him

on Sunday, "There 'Anybody are people who are aerobically fitter. who wins take the best marathon runner in the will say he country and the best weightlifter, you have got me in between." is Britain's The team challenge has drawn 12

fittest scorts for straight final, with sportsman' men and women in

Each team will comprise five competitors, the ten disciplines shared between them. How fit is an international hockey player compared with a boxer or rugby player? This attempts to find out. The England players Tina Cullen, Carolyn Reid, Jennie Birnson and Sarah Blanks are included. "This is a great

opportunity to shatter the myth about jolly hockey sticks and demonstrate how fit our players are," Ian Thomas, the marketing director of English Hockey, said.

They will find tough women's opposition from rowing, which includes Cath Bishop and Dot Blackie, runners-up in the world championship coxless pairs last year.

Glenn Catley, who fought Richie Woodhall last year for the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title, is among those representing Warren's boxing stable. The squad has been put together Chris Sanigar, the trainer. Chris is fascinated with the idea of putting his lads to the test," Richard Hart, Warren's

spokesman, said. The Harlequins squad is drawn from the club's first XV and includes Chris Sheasby. while Leeds Rhinos have named lestyn Harris, Andy Hay, Marvin Golden and Francis Cummins from the team that took the club into the Challenge Cup semi-finals last week. Also strongly represented is squash, with Del Harris, Paul Johnson, Chris Walker and Simon Parke.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

(b) A shallow ornamental bowl or vase. Properly, one supported on a foot. The Italian word for a cup. "Beautiful tazzas of jasper,

(c) The ground-robin or cheewink of North America, Pipilo erythrophthalmus. An echoic name, from one of its notes. "He utters his loud Towhee, a note so characteristic that it has become one of his names."

UPPING (c) The action of catching and marking swans. "The operation of upping is performed by the Crown and the Companies' swan-

(c) The posterior coloured surface or choroid coat of the eye. The

name for it in medieval medical Latin. SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE 1 ... R863! and if 2 gxf3 Oxh3+ mates; if the white queen moves then 2 ... Rxh3+ will mate while finally 2 Qxf3 Rxf3 3 Rxf3 Nf2+ TELEVISION CHOICE

New cars for old rope

Channel 4.8pm

Like most game shows this is mammon time—but fun with it. A studio audience to will the contestants on? You've got it. The contestants? Two couples, both self-conscious and trying hard to be characters but rather nice. The host? The gangling Claudia Winkleman doesn't seem over the top and seems to know what she's doing. So far, so predictable. Now here's the gintruck. There are four cars on offer (each gets an analysis from a Jack the Lad car dealer and a rather sterrer motoring journalist), and the two couples pick the one they fancy. But will they be allowed to drive it away? Winkleman puts them through the hoops with her questions, and the audience, not knowing their original choices, votes on which car best suris them. Will they be trading up or driving home in their old jalopy? Worth a spin

Murder Most Horrid

BBC2, 9pm

In Confessions of a Murderer Dawn French, at her most manic, plays the cop and crime-obsessed Harriet Snelgrove. Her cats are named Bodie. Doyle and Frost. She collects old videos of Hawaii Five-O and can mime every word. Over the past ten years not a crime in her borne patch of Nutley has seen to produce the past ten years not a crime in her borne patch of Nutley ten years not a crime in her home patch of Nutrey has gone unsolved — because Ms Snelgrove hes confessed loudly and in lurid detail, to every one of them. The local duty officer (Philip Jackson) explains to the new young inspector (fresh out of university and gloriously pedantic) that Snelgrove is bonkers. But the poor man has to find out the truth the hard way. Co-written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, this is the best yet.

Smack the Pony

Fiona Allen, Doon MacKichan and Sally Phillips you may recognise from separate appearances in shows such as Goodness Gracious Me. The Day Today, Brass Eye and I'm Alan Partridge. Now they've grouped together for Talkback Productions

Fiona Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally

(responsible for most of the above) and come up with a chain of short skenches almost every one of which him its target. Feminist without being strident, they put women down as crisply as they do men, and are, in short, very, very funny. You're in luck, too, because you can enjoy them straight after Marder Most Horrid. And no, I don't know what the title means. Enjoy.

ITV, 10.30pm

You will now see sights it was impossible to see on television (even Channel 4) as little as five years ago. Pleasure Island is the nickname for a Jamaican resort called Hedonism II. "If it's wicked it's included", says Eladio the suave MC as be shows new tourists the various activities... "This is the all-nude area — volleyball courts here — and the wet T-shirt area..." Out of the fog and grane of urban England (largely it would seem the North) they come — like Maggie with her suitcase of ear plugs, HRT pills and fan photos of Cliff Richard. Maggie manages a petrol station and has been on anti-depressants for a year. She first heard of Hedonism II on TV. Jamaican locals privately call it The Zoo. You will now see sights it was impossible to see on

Radio 4, 2.15pm

I am for once in the happy position of knowing as much about this play's ending as a contert istener; it has apparently been changed since I was sent a preview tape but whatever has been done to it I doubt that the play, adapted by Gabrielle Lloyd from Marjorie Riddell's collected writings, is any less listenable. This is a way tale about mother daughter relationships and how cutting the proverbial apron strangs is no guarantee of escape. The setting is Chestine in 1954 and mother (Rosalind Ayres) never tires of warning daughter (Jennifer Dundas Lowe) about

warning daughter (Jennifer Dundas Lowe) about the perils of leaving home, which of course is what daughter does. Miriam Margoyles, Jane Carr and Caroline Seymour co-star.

Peter Bacsard

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Off the Shelf Enduring Love 8.35 Science in Action 8.00 World News 9.05 The Art of Transisting 9.20 John Peel 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Eritain Today 10.45 Your Questions Of Feith 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Focus on Faith 12.00 World News 12.06pag Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 Science in Action 2.30 Music Review 3.00 World News 2.05 Science in Action 2.30 Music Review 3.00 World News 3.05 Football Edda 3.15 Performance 3.30 The Virtuge Chart Show 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Music track: Alternative 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 World News 7.05 Science in Action 7.30 Your Question Of Faith 7.45 Off the Shelf: Enduring Love 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 7.05 Science in Action 7.30 Your Question Of Faith 7.45 Off the Shelf: Enduring Love 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 8.28 Erities Today 9.30 Music Review 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitarck Alternative 11.00 World News 11.05 Outlook 11.46 Insight 12.00 The World Today 12.30 Maridian Books 2.00 The World Today 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 The World Today 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.30 Weekend

CLASSIC FM

Afternoon Play: M for Mother

Caroline Seymour co-star.

Radio 4, 2.15pm

RADIO CHOICE

The return of The News Quiz is a radio event always to be welcomed, with the caveat on this occasion being that it replaces The Sunday Format, undoubtedly the best new comedy show Format, undoubtedly the best new comedy show for a long time and one that deserved better than a four-week run. The News Quiz is of course the show that launched BBC2's Have I Got News For You and I still think that the father is better than the offspring; the latter is too often a vehicle for celebrity showing-off whereas on radio you actually have to be funny. The presenter Simon Hoggart had a hard act to follow when he took over from Barry Took but he has warmed to the job. The team captains are Andy Hamilton and some chap called Coren.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30em Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Reddilfa 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection 9.00 Judge Jules 11.00 Radio 1 Rep Show 2.00am Febio and Grooverider 4.00 Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

8.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Des Lynam 7.00 The Michael Peinstein Songbook — Turns Another Page, New series (1/8) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 9.15 Single and Single (4/8) 9.30 Listen to the Band 10.00 David Jacobs 10.30 Sheridan Morley 11.45 The People's Pastms 12.00 Nicky Home 4.00am Leta Sherma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News with Annie Websier 1.00pm Ruscos and Co 4.00 Drive with Alian Robb and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Edra. News round-up, including a sports bulletin 7.30 Alan Green's sporting issues 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00mm Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00mm The Big Boya Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00 Motoring 1.00pm Anna Raebum 3.00 OKI to Talk 6.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 Nicky Home's Access all Areas 10.00 Dave Benett 1.00mm Mike Dickin

VIRGIN

6.30em Chris Evens 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Hamiel Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Graca 2.00em Steve Power

6.00mm Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast, Music to get the day off to a fine start 9.00 Michael Mappin. The Hall of Farrie Hour and Classic Masterpiece 12.00 Lunchtime Requests, Jane Jones plays favourite music 2.00pm Concerto. Brahms (Violin Concerto in D major) 3.00 Jamie Crick Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and interviews with guests from the arts world 7.00 stroies and interviews with guests from the arts world 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Sruming Introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Rachmaninov (Phapecody on a theme of Paganini. Egar (Cello Concerto in Eminor); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D major) 11.00 Mann at Night. Music through till the small hours 2.00em Concerto. Brahms (Violin Concerto in D major) (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths introduces the Early Breakfast Show

6.00em On Air with Petroc Trelawny, Beethoven (Egmont Overture); Lectair (Violin Concerto in D, Op 7 No 2); Elgar (Proissant Overture) 9.00 Maasterworks with Peter Hobday, Ovorak 9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Dvorak (Slavonic Suite in C, Op 45); Poulenc, after Gervaise (Suite francaise); Faure (Prolude: Penelope); Dabussy (Trois poemes de Mallarme); Andre Caplet (Conte tantasique); Mozart (Symphony No 39 in G minor, K543)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Giffian Weir 11.00 Sound Stories: Medical Matters A look at Revel's & health 12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss

Revel's it health
12:00 Composer of the Weak: Strauss
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Roland
Portiner, plano. Includes Bosoni (Gigue, Bolero
and Variations); Turandots Frauengemach; DieNachtifichen, Elegies); Liszt (Gnomerneigen, S145
No 2; Vexilia regis prodeunt; Wiegenked; Valse
oublies No 4); Debussy (Pour les sixtes; Pour les
degres chomatiques) (f)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of
Wales under Mark Wigglesworth and Tedasid
Otalea, Martin Roscoe, plano. Tchailovsky
(Overture: Romeo and Jusiet); Brahms (Plano
Concerto No 1 in D minor); Tchailovsky (The
Nutcracker, Act 2)

Concerto No 1 in 1 minor), Turializativesky (The Nutcracker, Act 2)
4.00 Music Restored Lucie Skeeping introduces a programme of country delights (r)
4.45 Music Machine with Tommy Peerson
5.00 in Turie Sean Rafferty is joined by the planist

imagen Cooper, who performs live in the studio
7-30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live
from St John's, Smith Square, London, Introduced
by Stephanie Hughes, London Mazert Players
under Metihias Barnert, Britten (Prefude and
Fugue); Bloch (Concerto Grosso No 1); Mertin
(Petite Symphonie Concertante) 8-30 Book of the
Month, An extended review of The Autobiography
of Mertin Luther King 8-50 Concert, part two.
Tippett (Concerto for Orchestra)

of Martin Luther King 8.50 Concert, part two.
Tippett (Concerto for Orchestra)

9.40 Postscript: The Pas de Deux (5/5)

10.00 Hear and Now Verity Sharp investigates the thriving new music scene in New Zealand. includes the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Kenneth Young, performing Gillian Whitehead (Resurgences); Jack Body (Melodies); Heten Bowaler (New Year Fanfare); Lyell Cresswell (Salm); John Psathas (Seidole)

11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century) Russell Davies presents a 52-part history of jazz (f)

12.00 Composer of the Weelc Dethus (f)

1.00am Through the Night 1.00 Brahms
(Liebeslieder, Neue Liebeslieder, Selection of Hungarian Dances) 2.15 Prokofiev (Romeo and Juliet) 2.46 Prokofiev (Four Etudes, Op 2) 2.55 Mozan (Requiem) 3.58 Rudoff Eacher (Ino) 4.40 Durante (Concerto No 1 in F minor) 5.05 Franck (Prekude, Chorale and Fugue) 5.30 Bach (Violin Sonsta No 3 in C, Fugue) 5.50 Schubert (Du bist die Ruft; Bei dir allein)

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Instore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day 5.47 Farming Today with Charlotte Smith 6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Partiament The latest political

Riddell. A woman becomes increasingly concerned about her daughter's move to London and feets compelled to interfere. See Choice (r) Making Michael Control of the control

Sal. Last in series (5/5)

3.00 Making History New series. Sue Cook investigates historical mysteries, and offers advice on conducting research
3.30 Carming Tales Mark Rickards experiences the Barming Tales Mark Rickards experiences the

RADIO 4

developments

9.00 Desert Island Discs Sue Lawley's castaway is the restaurant critic Fay Maschier (r)

9.45 (FM) Serial: Letters from My Wiredmill Stephen Fry reads the last of five extracts from Alphonse Dauder's reflections on Provence and its people 9.45 (LM) An Act of Worship

10.00 Woman's Hour The chief prosecutor for the UN War Crimes Tribunal Louise Arbour talks to Jenna Murray short her work.

War Crimes Tribunal Louise Arbour talks to Jenna Murray about her work

11.00 Sharks and Seaguills: A Summer with Sussex David Stafford concludes his look at the fortunes of Sussex County Cricket Club (r)

11.30 Summy Side Up The Glee Boys enter the barbershop grand final in Herrogate (8/6)

12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast

12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer issues and public service reports, presented by Liz Barclay and John Waite

1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke

1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Mestanka presents riddles and brain-leasers

and brain-leasers 2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r) 2.15 Afternoon Play: M for Mother by Marjorle

famboyent camival etmosphere at Ric Grande de

3.45 This Sceptred late Part 55 of the tristory of Britain, namated by Anna Massey (r)
4.00 Open Book Humphrey Carpenter and guests discuss a new version of Aesop's Fables and modern novels involving journeys (r)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodle and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Kevin Booquet and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 The News Quitz New series. See Choice
7.00 The Archers Pat leak strange
7.15 Front Row Live arts programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern by Tim Jackson.
Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (r)
8.00 Any Questions? Audience members from
Leyburn in North Yorkshire address paneliksts including the Times columnist Will Self and Steven Nortis. Chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby
8.45 Letter from America Alistair Cooks with another sice of stateside life
9.00 The Friday Pfay. Alin't it Grand to Be Bloomin' Well Dead by John Clifford, inspired by Federico Garcia Lorca. Lestie analyses his relationships, sexuality and death. With Graham Turner, Torn McGovern and Liam Brennan
10.00 The World Tonight Robin Lustig presents
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Strakt is the Gate David McKell concludes his reading of André Gide's story (r)
11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Beanor Oldroyd

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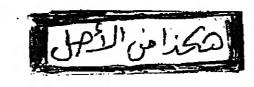
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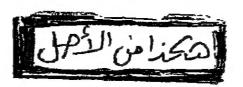
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story (f) 11.00 Late Niight on 4: Late Tackle Beanor Oknoyd

11.00 Late Night on 4: Late Tackle Eleanor Okiroyd Chars the sporting magazine
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) Sport in the Movies Pat Butcher investigates the history of sport on film
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Mesk of Command The finel part of John Keegan's meditation on the nature of leadership
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 80.2-62.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720; RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55em). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRIGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.





The bra's the star so why bother with cars?

REVIEW

Paul

ever really left Top Gear (BBCI). He just transmuted into half-a-dozen other presenters. The spirit of the lolloping, permed prankster hangs over the programme like sticky ectoplasmic gloop, forcing each and every one of them to talk in the same laddish.

CH 19 1999

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quasi-ironic, wacky exaggerations. Whatever you have read elsewhere, the real reason Clarkson left the show was that he was. unwilling to conform to the rule that all male presenters with the letter T in their names must have a double letter where you would normally expect to find one.

This leaves Quentin Willson, who has had his twisty, ironic little smile wired into place, ruling the roost, with Tiff Needell as heir apparent

Last night Willson and femalle sidekick Julia (women are exempt from the double I rule) Bradbury went to the Geneva Motor Show in Henderson after test-driving a

a new Llotus Esprit 350. But they pretended Willson made a bish of out of the car window just like the navigation and they nearly went to Budapest, which was sim-ply hillarious! Then they pretended they had driven right into the middle of the show, which had me falllling off my seart

This is automotive pornography, said Willson of the new Ferrari 360 Modena. The Italians have perfected on perfection." He allso lloved Fiat's compact peoplie-carrier. "The interior is a mixture of Vivienne Westwood and Fireballil XLLS," he cliaimed confusingly. "When did you liast see an air-vent as dellicious as that?" Actualily, it llooked rather uglly to me. And who wants to eat an air-vent?

n air-venir Even the female presenters talk this gibberish, and turn out to be lads with breasts. It's the most fun you can have with your bra on - or off?" quipped Vicki Butlerout of the car window just like Claudia Schiffer in that French car advert. Llaugh? I nearlly did.

Il this humour is a smoke-A screen. It affects a satirical distance, an amused detachment complicit between programme and viewers, which is entirely phoney. The nitty gritty is buried in the jargon of auto-speak and VI2 engines which "pack" this, "punch" that or give "masses of power down at the bottom". One car has a "delivery of 420 horses", apparently, while another, worryingly, "will punch out nearly 150 horses". Tiff Needell even went for a niche in history in a McLaren Fl. He broke the record for the Fastest Average Speed for a Production Car around a UK circuit. Gosh.

Let's face it, these people are nerds. This is a motoring programme for fantasists. Audi-

ence research reveals that the

Hoggart programme packs a walloping 0.01 per cent of viewers who will ever be able to afford any of these

> of Playboy, ogling the goodies, but unable to touch. At least it proves that such fantasising is not simply the preserve of men, a point which was raised again in a different guise during

> cars new (I guess). Committed reg-ulars must watch the programme as they might flick through a copy

Every Woman Knows a Secret (ITV), the first of a three-part adaptation of Rosie Thomas's novel. This is one of those tragi-roman-

tic psycho-dramas so beloved of TV drama commissioners, in the tradition of Imogen's Face or those Deborah Moggach adaptations. Siobhan Redmond plays Jess, a 40-year-old divorce who dotes on her 22-year-old son, Danny.

When Danny is killed in a drink-driving accident she is inconsol-able, unable to forgive his friend Rob, a handsome blond carpenter, who was at the wheel and survived. But Rob is strangely drawn to her and insists on revealing the unknown dark side of Danny's character, that he was a spoils, arrogant would be rapist who caused the accident himself. So, of course, they go to bed together. As you do.

When male writers construct soznarios in which a middle-aged middle-class bloke gets to have sex

with a beautiful young woman, this is usually treated with some suspicion. Melvyn Bragg's A Time To Dance, for instance, was ridiculed for such male-menopausal wish-fulfilment. Well middle-aged women do it, too, in this case with a hunky chippy, so there!

t was reasonably entertaining. All these adaptations suffer from the concertina-effect of novels squashed into screenplays. It was hard to establish character, and events were so rapid I occasionally lost track of who was who and where and why. And it lacked the insight of a Moggach. But Siobhan Redmond's bulging eyes blazed convincingly

under her fringe of flaming red locks and that made up for a lot. I wish she didn't remind me of

Home Front's Anne McKevin. though. I kept expecting her to cover everything in lime-green MDF. Doomed! We're all still doomed, normally such a sober, responsible series, entered the realm of the Nature's Most Violent Apocatypse From Space!" type documentaries which are all the rage these days, with New Asteroid Danger.

To be fair the programme last night took the usual pains to estab-lish the scientific basis of its main proposition. This is that the current obsession with massive asteroid or comet impacts is a distraction from a much more real and present danger.

The Earth is hit every 50 years or so by objects large enough and fast enough to cause the equivalent of many nuclear explosions on impact. Such devastating impacts have occurred in Siberia (1908), the Arabian Desert (1863) and the Brazilian rainforest (1930). Eventually one will wipe out a city without warning. So sit back and savour those fantasies, because we

6.00mm Business Brenkfast (85432)

7.00 Breakfast News (T) (21161) 9.00 Kilroy (T) (2497635) 9.45 Wipeout (1496780) 10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7386074) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (3939161) 11.00 Change That (3956838)

11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (3853797) 11.55 News, Weather (1) (7804635) 12.00 Call My Bluff (29600) 12.30pm Top Tip Challenge (r) (4470093) 12.55 The Weather Show (1) (53514093) 1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (31548)

1.30 Regional News, Weather (59370068) 1.40 Neighbours (T) (35410426) 2.05 Ironside (r) (5624971) 2.55 Through the Keyhote (r) (T) (5811726) 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6277068) 3.45 Spider (5904567) 3.50 Smart on the Road (9619180) 4.05 Rugrats (6070722) 4.30 L & K Friday (3845600) 4.55

Newsround Extra (5488819) 5.10 Blue Peter (9203884) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (132529) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (635)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (987)
7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne
Robinson A new series of the

programme (T) (2722) 7.30 Top of the Pops Performances by Boyzone, REM, Beautiful South, Steps, Rowelle, Manic Street Preachers and Britney Spears (T) (971)

8.00 Ground Force New series. An update from a revitalised garden in Senderstead. 18 months after the green-fingered team spent two days creating a colonial summer house (1) (5242)

8.30 The Builders Guy finishes the barn restoration (1) (7277) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News;

Weather (1) (2513) 9.30 Perkinson With Jack Dee and Barbara Windsor (1) (74677)



Comedy with Nick Note and Eddie Murphy teaming up again (10.30pm)

10.30 Another 48 Hrs (1990) Comedy thriller sequel, starting Eddie Marphy as the wisecracking consist who once seein secracking convict who once again joins forces with San Francisco cop Nick Notie, Directed by Walter Hill (T) (88180) 12.00 Blue Chips (1994) A college basketball coach is forced to consider the future following his team's first defeat. With Nick

Note and Mary McDonnell. Directed by Wilham Friedkin (T) (405469) 40am Weather (1146198) 1.45 BBC News 24 (45303933)

10.30 Just Up Your Street (T) (115432) 11.05 He Can't Stop Here (500616) 11.35 FILM: Another 48 Hrs (1) (489844) 1.05am FILM: Blue Chips (1) (150933) 2.45 Nows Headlines and Weather (1) (5154285) 2.50-7.00 BBC News 24 (30940469)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7315616) 7.05 Teleubbies (4431136) 7.30 Snorks (8277529) 7.50 Short Change (3205600) 8.18 Rewind (3646871) 8.20 Taz-Mania (5966890) 8.40 Polica Dot Shorts (1921838) 8.50

8.40. Polika Dot Shorts (1921838) 8.50 Pingu (1910722) 9.00 Storytime (7549838) 9.10 See You, See Ma (4191513) 9.30 Numbertime (8680819) 9.45 Come Outside (8658074) 10.00 Telefubbles (18109) 10.30 Megamaths (1419258) 10.50 Look & Read (1422722) 11.10 Tandmarks (3115432) 11.30 Engish File (4548) 12.00 Scene (27242) 12.30pm Working Lunch (52426) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (88777068) 1.10 War Walks The evacuation of May 1940

1.40 Hart-Davis on History Adam Hart-Davis visits a goose fair (35504819) 2.10 Awash with Colour With Suzanne Dando in Dunlanaghy (58291088)

2.40 News; Weather (T) (3118258) 2.45 Match of Their Day (T) (4588432) 3.25 News; Weather (T) (4565884)

3.30 The Village (r) (9385616) 3.55 Kaye Advice show (9393635) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6072180) 4.55 Esther (T) (5057161) 5.30 Whose House? (364)

6.00 The Simpsons (f) (1) (424646) 6.20 The Simpsons (f) (1) (824682) 6.45 Robot Wars Highlights (f) (135345) 7.15 Electric Circus Gall Porter presents

entertainment and computer games news (1) (492172)

7.30 Country House Lady Tavistock and her son fall out (1) (513).

8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor A look at the health benefits of sloohol (1) (3884).

8.30 Gardeners' World Stephen Lacey visits. a restored Oxfordshire garden (1) (5819)

9.00 Murder Most Horrid A fresh-faced police inspector is driven to distraction by the implausible murder confession of eccentric Harriet Snellgrove. Dawn French stars (T) (7105)

10.00 The Young Ones (f) (T) (28971) 10.30 Newsnight Including news summary at

11.00 (1) (148155) 11.18 Video Nation Shorts (T) (201513) 11.20 Births, Marriages and Deaths Alan, Terry, and Graham discover Peter's



12.15am Bartofi in Italy in a concert recorded last summer in Vicenza, Italy, the mezzo-soprano performs a selection of arias by Handel, Mozart, Bellini, Donizetti and Rossini (737198)

Nate and Ton Amos (r) (2870310) 2.50 Weather (5142440) 2.55 Close 3,00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Blassize Revision: RE (12020) 5.00 Close

HTV 5.30em ITV Morning News (21722) 6.00 GMTV (5851093)

9.25 Trisha (T) (8883722) 10.30 This Morning (T) (44405616) 12.15pm HTV News (4993258) 12.30 ITV Lunchtime News (T) (4465161) 12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (53500890) 12.55 WEST: Getaways (r) (1) (9729971) 12.55 WALES: Wish You Were Here? (r) (T)

(9729971) 1.30 Home and Away James comforts Chice (T) (35512838) 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (9776822) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (1) (3916190)

3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4564155) 3,15 HTV News (T) (4563426) 3.20 CITV: Mopetop's Shop (4657819) 3.30 Timbuctoo (5694180) 3.35 Animal Stories (9609703) 3.45 Giggly Bitz! (9629567) 4.00 Pump it Up (6171451) 4.35 Cornin! Atche (3942567)

5.00 Home and Away (r) (1) (1426)
5.30 WEST: Sportsweek Highlights (890)
5.30 WALES: Quiz Challenge General knowledge contest (T) (890)
5.58 HTV Weighter (647797)

6.00 HTV News (1) (703)

6.30 ITV Evening News; Westher (T) (155) 7.00 Emmerdate Paddy and Zoe have a blazing row (T) (7890) 7.30 Coronation Street Emily babysits for the Mailetts (T) (567)

8.00 Parking: Wars New str-part series providing an insight into the stress and paranola involved in finding parking spaces in 1990s Britain (1/6) (1) (3838)

8.30 Days Like These Ron's mother, the appropriately named Humicane Brende, pays an eventful visit to the Formen household (1) (2345) 9.00 Britain's Worst Cheats Insight into the unsavoury activities of professional ilars, swindlers and thieves, from card sharps to charity fraudisters (T) (9155)

10.00 Mr and Mrs with Julian Clary New series Febrin of the classic game show, Julian Clary (1) (22797)



New arrivals Paul and Kim get into the party mood (10.30pm)

10.30 Pleasure Island New series exploring nightifie in Hedonism II, Jamaica's iest adult resort (1/5) (1) (32695) 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (892109) 11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (787838)

11.30 Wonderful You Clere gets a proposition (2/7) (1) (T) (69529) 12.30am ITV at the Reading Festival Highlights (2/3) (r) (92556) 1.30 Club@vision Dance scene (2496533) 2.15 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (65310)

2.45 SeaQuest DSV Tony is betrayed by an

3.40 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (2582662) 4.40 FTV Nightscreen (59113407) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (75730)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News: Weather (1) (7068426) 12.55 Home and Away (T) (4473180) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4045074) 2.10-2.40 Wish You Wers Here? (r) (T) (56384722) 3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (T) (4563426) 5.30 Surprise Gardeners (890) 6.00-6.30 Central News at Gardeners (930) 8.00-8.30 Central News at Sb; Weather (T) (703) 11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (T) (787838) 11.30 Late Tackle (464600) 12.35am FILM: Shattered Dreams (T) (293846) 2.15 Club@vision (2872566) 3.00 Box Office America (12041914) 3.25 The Haunted Fishtrank (f) (12044001) 3.55 Central Jobfinder '99 (T) (5313117) 5.20-5.30 Asian Fee (3108310) Eye (3108310)

A STESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12.15pm Westcountr As HTV West except: 12.15pm Westcountry News (T) (4993258) 12.27-12.30 illuminations (7149345) 12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (T) (4473180) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4045074) 2.10-2.40 Home and Away (T) (56384722) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (4563426) 4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7742277) 5.30 Westcountry Weekend (890) 6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (T) (703) 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (787838) 11.30 Fil.M: Caddyshack R (795258) 1.20am-1.30 Generations (1918198) Generations (1918198)

The second of th

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (4993258) 12.55-1.30 Shortland Street (9729971) 5.30 Streetwise (890) 6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight (T) (703) 7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (480364) 11.20-11.30 Meridian News; Weather (T) (787838) 5.00em-5.30 Freescreen (T) (75730)

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7143181) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News Street (9729971) 5.30-6.00 Off the Beaten Track (8/10) (T) (890) 5.00-6.30 Anglia News (T) (703) 11.19 Anglia Alr Watch (301567) 11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather (T)

Mary Secretary

Starts: 5.55em Sesame Street (f) (20034838) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (67653797) 9.00 Ysgolion: Off Limits (9900890) 9.25 Schools at Work (29647722) 9.30 Eureka (74907093) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (74902548) 10.00 Th Complete Cosmos (14959819) 10.10 TVM (91678884) 10.25 laith ar Daith (91760819) 10.45 Cynhadledd y Celdwadwyr (20168616 12.45pm Ysgoffor: Pa Newydd?: Planed Plant (5/656884) 1.30 Ysgoffor: Enter the Maths Zone (54623635) 1.45 The Technology

Maths Zone (54623635) 1.45 The Technology Programme (54611890) 2.00 FILM: Dreamboat (77169635) 3.30 Coffectors' Lot (1) (67989066) 4.00 Fitteen-to-One (1) (87064703) 4.30 Ricki Lake (1) (57060987) 5.00 Planed Plant (90972513) 5.30 Countdown (1) (67084587) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (1) (83220600) 6.10 Heno (1) (86883703) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (1) (90065277) 7.30 Newyddion (1) (67061816) 8.00 Cetn Gwlad (1) (90978797) 8.30 Y Clwfb Rygbi (1) (90053432) 9.00 Priends (1) (68084884) 9.30 Ramsay's Bolling Point (1/5) (1) (26699426) 10.00 Brookside (1) (72510890) 10.35 Frasier (1) (83619277) 11.45 TFI Friday (35080819) (83619277) 11.45 TFI Friday (35080819) 12.50am 4 Leter; Pulp (29395759) 1.10 Flava (91368487) 1.45 The Mod Squad (90452049) 2.45 Vids (r) (36628681) 3.10 FILM: The Brides of Fu Manchu (T) (27351285) 4.40

CHANNEL 4

5.50am Animal Alphabet (1559068) 5.55 Sesame Street (r) (4118890) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (41971)

9.00 Schools: Off Limits (4023203) 9.25 Schools at Work (8701432) 9.30 Eureka Schools at Work (8701432) 9.30 Eureka (8655987) 9.45 Stop, Look, Lusten (8570242) 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (5971258) 10.10 TVM (9841432) 10.25 1798 and After (9860567) 10.45 Enter the Maths Zone (9010971) 11.00 The Technology Programme (3984600) 11.15 Stage One (3070451) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (9616)

12.00 Sesame Street (T) (25838) 12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (43722)

1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (24258)

1.30 The Three Stroges (f) (83874123)
1.50 The Red Beret (1953) A conscientious
1.50 The Red Beret (1953) A conscientious
American signs up with the British
paratroopers in the early years of the
Second World War. With Alan Ledd.
Terence Young directs (f) (75194987)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (628) 4.30 Countdown (T) (3941838) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5059529) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (432) 6.00 TFI Friday With Martine McCutcheon

and the England cricketer Darren Gough Plus, The Brian Setzer Orchestra, Res and Des'ree provide the music (55513) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (357548) 7.55 Bodyscapes Mascara (T) (257258)



Claudia Winkleman hosts a new itestyle game ahow (8pm)

8.00 CROICE Trading Up New game show in which two sets of contest-ants get the chance to trade in their old cars for a better model (1/6) (T) (4180) 8.30 Brookside Sinbad gets an unexpected

visitor (T) (6667) iwo doctors (r) (T) (1451)

9.30 CHOICE Smack the Pony New series.
Officeat sketch starting Flora Allen, Doon Mackichan and Sally Phillips

(1/7) (T) (30258) 10.00 Fraster A series of good deeds backfire

11.10 King of the Hill Hank becomes volunteer firefighter (7) (429797)

11.40 TFI Friday With actress Martine McCutcheon (r) (832567) 12.45em 4 Later Introduction; Pulp (1203407) 1.00 Flava New series. Sounds from the black music scene (9069488)

1.35 The Mod Squad The team investig the suspicious death of a narcotics informant (9078136)

2.35 Vids Offbeat video review (r) (8523952)
3.00 The Brides of Fu Manchu (1966) The evil mastermind kidnaps the daughters of world leaders. Starring Christopher Lee. Directed by Don Sharp (352310) 4.35 The Pretenders: No Turn Left Unstaned (r) (9983556)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport (2058398)

7.00 WideWorld (r) (1) (8825451) 7.30 Milkshakel (2357277)

7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4336906) 8.00 Havakazoo (r) (2559529) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2478600)

9.00 Nancy Lam (r) (T) (2169187) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4118548)

9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (8485267) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (3398890) 11,10 Leeza (9614659) 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2552616)

12.30pm Family Affairs Dave tnes to get the better of Pete (r) (1) (1930838) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Sally discovers the truth (T) (8824722)

1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment and chat: 5 News Update (1939109) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9818838) 2.30 Good Afternoon (1343426) 3.30 A Change of Place (TVM 1994) A shy

girl agrees to take her glamorous sister's place on the Paris catwalks, little realising the effect it will have on her life. Drama, with Andrea Roth. Directed by Donna Deltch (5940203) 5.20 5 News (74797677)

5.25 Russell Grant's Postcard A visit to St Seriol's Well in Anglesey (r) (75147118) 5.30 100 Per Cent (2155906) 6.00 5 News; Weather (1) (2152819)

6.30 Family Affairs Declar makes a deadly error (T); 5 News Update (2063971) 7.00 Knight Rider Adventure series, starring David Hasselhoff (r) (9716426)

7.30 Nature of Oz Insight into the world of Australia's kookaburra kinglisher (1); 5 News Update (2069155) 8.00 Was it Good for You? Keen motor cycling fans from Penrith in Cumbna and

a retired couple from Bath visit Catalonia in north-east Spain (10/14) (9898074) 8.30 Nick's Quest Nick Baker reports on from extinction, visiting nesting colonies the Costa Rica's Playa Grande, and the

National Park (5/8) (T) (9817109) 9.00 Evidence of Love (TVM 1990) A teacher looking for excitement embarks on an affair with a churchgoing man. leading to a fatal confrontation with his write. Drama, starring Barbara Hershey,

Brian Dennehy, John Terry and Lee Garlington. Directed by Stephen Gyllenhaal (T) (81900093) 10.50 Lexic The Dark Zone Stories Sci-fi weirdness, stamng Eva Habermann (1/4)

(r) (7251141) 11.50 Matibu Nights (TVM 1996) Two cops discover that there's more to a seeming routine murder case than meets the ey

Phriller, with Kurt Schwoebel. Directed by Serge Rodnunsky (8042285)

1.30am Follow the Fleet (1936) Fred Astaire
finds romance with Ginger Rogers while
on leave from the Navy. Irving Berlin
musical, with Randolph Scott and Betty

Grable. Mark Sandnoh directs (6065759) 3.30 Texas Rangers Ride Again (1940) The Rangers tangle with cattle rustiers. Western sequel, starring John Howard. Directed by James Hogan (82398469)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8444285)

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• For further listings see

7.90em Court Ducketa (74277) 7.50 The Chris Evens Sinesidest Show (88068) 8.30 Hollywood Squaines (47074) 9.00 Sell Jesey Raphael (57161) 10.00 The Operative (82068) 11.00 Guilly! (82432) Warmay Strom (Biblish 11-Jun Campr) (50-54) 1-2.00 Jarry Jones (S5109) 1.00pm Mad About You (7:5548) 1.28 Jeopardy (7:5345) 2.00 Sally Jessy Rephael (37:259) 3.00 Jarry Jones (98957) 4.00 Gushy (89074) 5.00 Star Trek. Voyager (4155) 6.00 America's Durnbast Cerminals (1987) 6.50 Extends (EED) 7.00 Temasts (1987) 6.50 America's Dumbest Carminas (1997) a.a. Friends (5567) 7.00 The Simposis (5684) 7.30 The Simposis (4451) 8.00 Defing Hell (34069) 9.00 World's Most Shocking Monerold (10432) 10.80 Cops (59819) 10.30 Cops (88567) 11.00 Prends (80703) 11.30 Star Track Voyager (56600) 12.30 am The Commish (58776) 1.30 Long Play (550res)

SKY BOX OFFICE SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51)

Fallen (1998) SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) stad (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) Flubber (1997) Starship Troopers (1997) Sky BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)

1,00am The Boy from Mercury (1995) 1933451 B.DO FORWAY LOW 174401 10.00 Jingto All the Way (1995) (78432) 12.00 Hearts Adult (1996) (12703) 2.00pm The Boy Irota Mercary (1996) 2.00pm The Boy from Neutrary (1996) (2659) (200 Jingle All the Way (1896) (2659) 8.00 Jingle All the Way (1896) (22277) 8.00 Men in Black (1897) (27722) 10.00 The English Patient (1896) (47919432) 12.40pm North Star (1996) (259440) 2.10 The Pope Must Die (1991) (579730) 8.50 Cherokes Kild (1996) (35546081)

5,25cm Chellenger (1988) (54383180) 7,90 Too Close to Home (1987) (65529) 9,00 Closens Pandileo (1989) (31074) 11,00 Sued (1987) (35068) 1,00 See Dwits (1987) (3598) 2,00 Closem Paradiso (1988) (30616) 5,00 Too Close

to Hoste (1997) (57451) 7.00 P-Seview (6180) 7.20 UK Top 10 (5819) 8.00 Rumble in the Bross (1998) (45839) 9.30 Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) (11432) 11.00 Steel (1997) (19638) 12.40em Ossega Doom (1996) (544986) 2.05 New Jack City (1997) (531575) 3.45 Bloodhounds II (1997) (381933) SKY CINEMA

FILMFOUR 6.00pmi. Short Attention Span Chema (4887242) 8.00 The Cincinnati Kid (1963) (87082554) 9.40 I Think I Was an Alcoholic

(1978) (18759001) 6.00 Close TNT 9.00pm WCW Nitro (23101426) 11.35 WCW Trunder (63306819) 2.00mm String Target (1972) (13765927) 3.45 Mask of Fir Manohu (1832) (21086579) 5.06 Close

SKY SPORTS 1. ... 6.30mm Futures in Sport 7.00 Sports Centre
7.15 World Wresting Federation:
Supervises 8.15 You're On Sky Sports! 9.00
Racing News 9.30 Aerobics Ox Skyle 10.00
Sparts Footbell 11.00 Table Termis 12.00
Aerobics Ox Skyle 12.30pm What A
Vicekend 1.00 Ice Skating 3.00 VS Golf
5.00 Futbol Mundfel 5.30 What A Westend 8.00 Sports Centre 7.00 Live Super League 8.00 Sports Centre 7.00 Live Super League 8.00 World Sport Special 10.00 Sports Centre 11.00 Hold the Back Page 12.00 Sports Centre 1.00em World Wresting Federation: Rew 3.00 Super League 4.00 Hold the Back Page 5.00 Sports Centre

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style 7.39 Sports Centre 7.45 Racing News 8.15 What A Weakend 8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 Trains World Sport 19.00 LIS Goll 12.00 Los Hockey 2.30pm Formula Three 3.00 What A Weekend 3.30 Sportsh Footbell 4.30

SKY SPORTS 2

and the second s

8.00 The Rugby Club 7.00 Spanish Footbal 8.00 Max Power 9.00 Live US Golf 11.00 The Rugby Club 12.00 Super Langue 1.00em US Golf 3.00 Sports Cartre 4.00 The Rugby Club 5.00 Moto-Plus 5.30 Extreme Salino SKY SPORTS 3

11.30mm Futures in Sport 12.00 Trans World Sport 1.00pm Footbell League Review 1.30 Futbol Mundial 2.00 Bobby Charton's Footbalt Scrapbook 3.30 Snow boarding 4.00 Max Power 5.00 Watersports World 6.00 Moto-Plus 6.30 Inside the Senior PGA Tour 7.00 ice Sketing 8.00 Moto-Pus 9.30 Extente EUROSPORT

7.80em Cast 9.00 Live Sk-Jumping 11.00 Footbell 1.00 Racing Line 2.00 Live Short Track Speed Skating 4.00 Ski-Jumping 5.00 Footbell 7.00 Officed 8.00 Sturie 9.00 Boxing 18.00 Women's Ten-Pin Sowing 11.00 Boxene Sports 12.00 Snowboarding 12.30am Closs

NK GOLD 7.00em Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EastEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.30 Price and Prejudice 10.30 Rhods 11.00 Delles 11.55 Prejudice 10.50 Rhode 11.00 Delies 11.55 Neighbours 1.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Bugs 2.00 Delies 2.55 The Bit 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 Rhode 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small 5.00 Dynasty 7.00 Ever Decreasing Citcles 7.40 Ded a Army 8.20 The Britiss Empra 9.00 The Thin Blue Line 9.40 Harry Emilied and Churns 10.20 Ruby Wax Meets Jane Seymour, Lisa Kudrow and John Goodman 11.00 The Bit 12.00 Declar Who 1.45am Best of the Old Grey Whistie Test 2.16 Sight and Sound in Contest 3.00 Shopping with Suresistop

GRANADA PLUS GHANADA PLUS

6.00m Within These Wats 7.00 Holdingthe Fort 7.20 The Odd Couple 8.00
Families 8.30 The Many Wives of Pamilies
9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30
Entrandale Farm 10.00 Upsters.
Downstairs 11.00 The Gerde Touch 12.00
Classic Coronation Street 12.30pm
Entrandale Farm 1.00 The Many Wives of Patrick 1.30 Mile and My Girl 2.00 Upstairs.
Downstairs 3.00 The Love Boat 4.00 The
Professionals 3.00 The Many Other to That 6.00
Emmerciale Farm 6.30 Classic Coronation
Street 7.00 The Professionals 3.00 The 8.00m Gommit Bears 6.25 Classic Toons 6.35 Tale Spin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladón 7.35 101 Delmehams 8.00 Gool Troop 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 New Adventures of Winner the Pooh 9.00 The Adventures of Winner the Pooh 9.00 The Adventures of 8.01 8.05 Animal Shell 9.15 Poofet Despons 9.20 Bear in the Big Bue House 9.55 The Toothbrush Family 18.05 Bile Size 10.10 Rose and Jim 18.30 The Big Gamps 18.45 PS and J Dies 17.00 Sesams Sheet 12.00 The Adventures of Spot 12.05pm Animal Shell 12.15 Poofet



Wigan travel to Leeds in a game that should recreate the excitement of last year's Grand Final (pictured) (Sky Sports 1, 7pm)

Hale and Pace 19.30 Wheeltappers and Shuntaris' Social Club 11.00 Granada Men CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gridooli 6.00 My Two Whes 6.30 Our House 7.00 Shins on Harvey Moon 6.00 Slue Heelers 8.00 Love Huts 10.00 The Good Set Gude 10.30 The Screen 11.00 Hat Street Blues 12.00 My Two What 12.30am Gridooli 1.00 The Last Place on Earth 2.00 Close DISNEY CHANNEL

Dragons 12,30 Bear in the Big Blue House 12,55 The Toothbrush Farmiy 1,00 Bis Size 1,10 Rose and Jim 1,30 The Big Garage 1,45 PB and J Other 2,00 New Adventures of Winne the Pook 2,80 Quach Pack 3,00 The Little Mermad 3,30 An Aback 4,00 101 Qalmalans 4,30 Harcules The TV Show 5,00 Recess 5,15 Peopor Am 5,30 Small Guy 4,00 Teen Angel 6,30 Boy Meets World 7,00 FILLE: Kid in King Arthur's Court (1995) 8,30 Honey. I Shruph the Kids. TV Show 9,15 Double Dinoceuts 18,00 Home Improvement 10,30 The Wonder Years 11,00 Touched by an Angel 12,00 Close

6.00mm Advertures of Dodo 6.05 Power Rangem Turbo 6.00 Power Rangem Turbo 6.00 Power Rangem Turbo 6.05 Spidemmin 7.20 Donkey Kong Country 8.00 Hero Turties: The Next Mutation 8.25 The Incredible Hulk 8.50 Hero Man 9.16 Fantastic Four 9.40 X-Men 18.05 Capper 10.30 Coox and the Contractions 10.55 18350C Trus Sever Areas I seeke seasons 10.30 Oggy and the Cockroaches 10.55 EckStravegergs 11.05 Bobby's World 11.30 Life with Louis 11.55 Home to Rent 12.05pen Dantis and Grasher 12.30

Dankey Kong Country 1.00 Mawayi. The New Adventures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Versum 1.55 The Incredible Huß. 2.20 Iron Man 2.45 Familiastic Four 3.10 X-Man 3.30 Fax Kots X-Press 3.35 Spiderman 4.00 Gooseburnes 4.25 Hero Turtles: The Next Mataston 4.50 Casper 5.00 Dennis and Greater 5.30 Ace Versum 6.00 Dankey Kong Country 6.30 Eek-Strawgarta 6.55 Oggy and the Coukroachee 7.00 Close MILOCET COLEDAN NICKELODEON

8.00am Rocko's Modern Life 8.30 Siuno the Kid 7.00 CatDog 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 The Wild Thomberrys 8.30 Arthur 9.00 Chicken's BBC 10.00 Winzer's House 10.30 Pape Beaver Stones 11.00 The Magic School Bus 11.30 PS Beat/Budge Megic School Bus 11.30 PS Beer/Budge-the Latie Helicopte/Animol Antuca/Family Ness 12.00 Rugnas 12.30pm Bud's Clues 1.00 Barranas in Pyjamas 1.30 Latie Bear Stories 2.00 Peddington Bear/Lozie's Library/Portland Bighat Men 2.30 Childron's BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 3.30 Doug 4.00 Three Friends and Jeny 4.30 Rugnats 5.00 Sear Sater 5.30 Keren and Kel 6.00 Renford Rejects 8.30 Mosets 7.00 Close

8.00pm Mattal Law 8.00 Edireme Chemp-lonship Wrestling 8.30 Cops 10.00 Late Lounge 18.30 Eratic Confessions 11.00 PLIM: Killer Nan (1978) 1.00em Eroto Confessors 1.30 Late Lounge 2.00 Mental Law 3.00 Fill.M: The Thomas Crown Affair (1988) 5.00 Externs Charg-ionship Wrestling 5.30 Cops 6.00 Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Jenny 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00 Ellen 8.30 Spin City 9.00 Direc the Dead Donkey 9.30 Whose Line Is it Anyway? 16.60 The Ruties 11.20 Gogs 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman 1.00am Teel 1.30 Fronting 2.00 Dr Katz 2.30 Tibe and Fibe 3.00 Nightstand 3,30 Abbolt and Co

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30am Bloomberg Information Television 8.00 Sightings 9.00 Bettlester Gelectica 10.00 Quartum Leap 11.80 Dark Shadows 11.30 The Pay Bradbury Theathe 12.00 The Twilight Zone 1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amezing Stones 2.30 Mysteries, Magic and Mirecles 3.00 Bettiestar Galactica 4.00 The Incredible Hulk 5.00 Sightings 8.00 The Ray Bardbury Theatre 8.30 New Afried Hatchcook 7.00 Cusanum Leap 8.00 Amazing Stores 8.30 Highlander: The Raven 9.30 The Hunger 10.00 PILM: Greepshow (1982) 12.00 FILM: Mosster City (1983) 1.20am The Hunger 2.00 The Guyver 2.30 100 Years of Hornor 3.00 Oark Shad ows 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE 8.00em Today's Gournet 8.30 You Can Cook — the Best of Asis 7.00 Homemaker 7.30 Period Rooms 8.00 Wedding Store 8.30 A Baby Sony 8.00 Simply Parating 8.30 The Great Gerdening Port 10.00 Instant Gardens 18.30 Two's Country Cooling 11.00 The Documen 11.25 The Home and Lestuse House 11.30 Rex Hunt Februm Adventures 19.00 by House Down Fishing Adventures 12.00 Cur House Down Under 12.30pm Antiques Trail 1.00 Cur House 1.30 Home Sawy 2.00 New Yerlike Workshop 2.30 Home Agent with Bob Vile 3.00 This Old House with Sleve and Norm 3.30 Charte West Fishing

DISCOVERY 4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30 The Car Show 5.00 Hater 6.00 Waldile SOS 6.30 Unterned Africa 7.30 Futureworld 8.00 Outback Adventures 8.30 Uncharted Africa 9.00 Test Phots 10.00 Car Theres 11.00 Weapons of War 12.00 The Egyptians 1.00am Hitler 2.00 Close

ANIMAL PLANET 12.00mm Tho New Adventures of Black Beauty 12.30mm Hollywood Saleri 1,30 Crocodile Hunter 2.00 Wid Rescues 2.30 Humen/Nature 3.20 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Hanna's Arrival Adventures 4.30 Animal Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Crocodile Hunter 6.00 The New Adventures of Black Reprint 6.00 The New Adventures of Black Reprint 6.00 Texts 7.00 of Black Beauty 6.30 Lassie 7.00 Rediscovery of the World 8.00 Ammet Doctor 8.38 Animal X 9.00 Ocean Wilds

9.30 Emergency Vets 19.00 Ivory Orphans 11.00 Vet School 11.30 Emergency Vets NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7,00pm Oknawa. The Generous See 7,30 Golden Lions of the Reinforest 8,00 The Sherk Files Sharks of the Wild Coast 9.00 Meno Luraschy: Magic Horses 10.00 letends of the Iguaria 11.00 tvory Pigs 12.00 Kim A Natural History

8.00em Food Neswork Deily 8.30 Coxon's Kirchen College 10.00 The Cookshop 10.30 First Taste 11.00 Worrall Thompson Cooks 11.30 A Sice of the Action 12.00 Cooks 11.30 A Story of the Patient Science Food Network Delty 12.30pm French Lunch. 1.80 Coxon's Kitchen College 1.30 Gordon Ramesy's Passon for Flewour 2.00 Coxon Stand the Heat 2.30 Food Network Delty 3.00 Food Fectory 3.30 A Size of the Action 4.00 The Cartion London Restaurant

CARLTON FOOD

6.00am Tiny and Crew 6.20 10 Ptus 2 6.40 Greedysaurus and the Gang 6.45 Philbert the Fing 6.50 Polica Dot Shorts 7.00 Practical Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Catiou 7.35 Bug Aust 7.55 Practical Parenting 8.00 Barney and Finends 8.25 Babaloos 8.30 Finy Tales 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Special Bables 9.30 The Rossanne Show 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Many Povich 11.40 The Heat Is On 12.10pm Through the Newhole 12.40 Reside 9.11

Through the keyhole 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Beyond Belief Fact or Fiction 1.40 Maury Powch 2.10 Special Babies 3.00 Living Room 3.50 Michael Colo 4.40

4.00pm Vernem Surrender 5.00 Thomas Edison - Motion Picture 6.00 Africa. A History Denied 7.00 Michael Came

Through the Keyhole 5.10 The Heal Is On 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 9.10 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 LA Law 9.00 FILM: This Matter of Numriago (1718 1998) 11.00 The Sex Files II 12.00 Close

5.00mm Mrs Madhun Dedt 5.30 Guldasia

ZEE TV

5.00mm Mrs. Machun Duit 5.30 Gutdasta 6.00 Sony Mori Lony 6.30 Mass Must Show 7.00 Faith Mustin 7.30 News 8.00 Muss: Mag 8.30 Tare 2 9.00 Adhian 10.00 Yeh Zhdagi 11.30 Zaite Va Satar 11.30 Parampara 12.00 Fill.N: Hindi Movie: Agg 3.00pm Bangla TV: Nokhatter Ret 3.30 It's My Choice 4.00 Arber Embel 4.30 Zee 2one 5.20 Amenia 6.00 Arber 6.00 Chasine 8.30 Zee end You: Shomcase 7.00 Chasine 8.30 Zee end You: Shomcase 7.00 Chasine 8.30 Anstalmant 9.30 Fill.M: Hindi Movie: Reliatian 12.00 News 12.30mm Ru-Se-Hi 1.30 X-Zone 2.00 Fill.M: Hindi Movie: Anturah



GOLF 45

Montgomerie struggles to cope with injustices of life

SPORT

BOXING 50 Lewis insists that Holyfield should hand over belts



FRIDAY MARCH 19 1999

Trainer celebrates delayed Gold Cup triumph as favourites falter in Festival showpiece

Nicholls back in business as fortune changes

THE sense of injustice that pervaded Gold Cup day a year ago was finally and emphatically assuaged yesterday. The connections of See More Business will still never know what might have been if their horse had not been so controversially carried out of the race last year, but they now know that they pos-sess the champion that they always believed he would be.

A Tote Gold Cup crowded with elements dramatic, depressing and even dumbfounding resolved itself into a duel up the final hill between two of the neglected horses in a glit-tering field. Go Ballistic, at 66-1, threatened to become the longestpriced winner since Sirrell Griffiths abandoned his cows for the day to turn out Norton's Coin in 1990, but See More Business, at 16-I, was not to be denied.

His glory, perhaps, had been delayed 12 months when Cyborgo, trained by Paul Nicholls's Somer-set neighbour, Martin Pipe, divert-ed him in a way that caused barely concealed resentment. Little has gone right for See More Business since then, but this was an occasion when application of blinkers was an undeniable factor. His mind was focused, his jumping precise and, when it mattered, he stayed strong to the line.

He won by a length, with the favourite, Ireland's Florida Pearl, a further 17 lengths back in third. For Teeton Mill. carrying the hopes and the cash of much of Britain, the race ended before its halfway point and endly it may be his less. and, sadly, it may be his last. A seri-ous tendon injury brought a swift suggestion of retirement.

There was a cruel irony in Teeton Mill breaking down approaching the downhill fence before the straight, the same fence at which Nick Dundee fell so heavily on Wednesday. These were the potential champions that had teased the loyalties of their jockey. Norman Williamson, when it seemed that Gold Cup. Now, through misfortunes on the same patch of Cots- last, he demanded everything.

ACROSS

1 Arab souk (6)

5 S Pacific canoe (4)

10 Healthy energy (6)

9 Parliamentary record (7)

11 Sculptor's preliminary mod-

15 Ask for review: be attractive

18 French stick: cut gem (8)

22 Portia's maid (M of V) (7)

20 Capital of Canada (6)

24 Stick and ball game (6)

■ SOLUTION TO NO 1668

23 Rhino 24 Dusk 25 Credence

16 Stupid 17 Ignore 19 Gloss 21 Shred

THE

23 Inquisitive (4)

TIMES

BEATING THE FIELD

ROB WRIGHT, The Times Festival in style yesterday. He picked out Anzum, the 40-1 winner of the Stayers Hurdle, was the only national newspaper expert to tip See More Business o win the Gold Cup at 16-1 and followed up with Space Trucker at 7-2 in the Grand Annual Chase. The profit on a £1 win treble would be £3,136.50.

wold turf, they are no longer the stuff of dreams but of regretful

Unsinkable Boxer and Suny Bay. the best-backed outsiders on the day, were also pulled up, the former bursting a blood vessel, and Dorans Pride, the other great Irish hope, finished a disappointing eighth, jumping raggedly as Paul Carberry tried to set a searching pace. It meant that the race was made for the serious stayers and See More Business has no defects in that department. Probably, the way the week has gone, we should

GOLD CUP RESULT

have expected it to turn out this

er trained by Nicholls, part-owned by Paul Barber and ridden by Mick Fitzgerald, and this has been emphatically their Festival. Their confidence in this horse was not as it had been for Call Equiname 24 hours earlier, but the outcome was the same. Fitzgerald, who finished the Festival as the leading jockey they might both be aimed at the with four winners, judged his moment immaculately and, at the

TWO

. 2 (Hindu) religious community

6 Circus arena; one round Sat-

17 Machine gun from air (6)

BOOKSHOP

(6) 3 Proclaim (8)

16 A clog (6)

ACROSS: I Parlance 5 Fair 9 Lofty 10 Onerous 11 Chassis

12 Unfed 13 Tough love 18 Tagus 20 Fishing 22 Proviso

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE

The Tirres Bino Consensated Book 7-82-99. The Tirres Crosswords Blook 20 Cryptic-12-99. The Tirres Juniho Consensated Blook 3 is available to Tirres readers for just 4 (RRP64-94) while supplies less threat the Tirres Bookshop. The Tirres Consensated Stook 19-0. The Tirres Consensate Crosswords on dark may also be ordered, with free defivery, along with any other books from The Tirres Rookshop. To under samply call 09-90 134-499 for credit and orders or for further details. It paying by chaque/POIst please make gayable to News Books/Consensated and to The Tirres Bookshop, PO Box 348, Falmouth, TRILZYX Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

DOWN: 1 Policy 2 Refract 3 Abyss 4 Cross the floor 6 Aloof 7 Reside 8 Regulo 14 Unsaid 15 Elision

4 Cook in oven (5)

"I needed a long one and thought, 'you're either coming up or going down'," he said. On the long run-in, he exploited intimate knowledge of his rival. "I've won six races on Go Ballistic," he said. knew what he was capable of."

Those capabilities had been well hidden of late, at least until his second to Cyfor Malta on this course in January. Go Ballistic had seemed one of the few who, rationally, could not win, but as Sheila Lockhart, his owner, said: "No one had told him that."

Oddly, both protagorists in the final duel were their stable's second string. Nicholls's stable jockey, Joe Tizzard, had been given no choice in the Champion Chase, but here he had opted to ride Double Thrill-er, who finished a gallant fourth and is now favourite in most bookmakers' lists for the Grand National on April 10. Go Ballistic was rid-den by Tony Dobbin because Rich-ard Johnson was on David Nicholson's more fancied Escartefigue. who trailed in seventh.

Nicholls, though, had been telling anyone who cared to listen that See More Business was no forlorn hope and now here he was, freshfaced and stocky, waiting to meet Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother for the second successive day. Alongside him stood Barber, mop-

ping his brow with a hand that refused to stop shaking. Barber, a dairy farmer, owns Nicholls's yard and surveys all that happens there from his house at the head of the drive. "I don't know if anyone can know what it feels like," he said. "I thought he was good enough to win last year and I was devastated that he was carried out in that extraordinary manner. To come back and win is a dream

For the pilgrims of Florida Pearl, the dream is at best delayed for a year. He was not the first of Willie Mullins's horses to have disappointed this week and, while youth remains on his side, he is not yet the champion Ireland craves.

ON OTHER PAGES Brothers in arms Simon Barnes Anzum proves his stamina



See More Business lands safely in front of the stands on his way to a famous victory in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup yesterday

Hoddle outcasts brought back into fold by Keegan

KEVIN KEEGAN declared an England amnesty at Lancaster Gate yesterday and brought the rebels and the renegades marching back into the squad for the crucial European championship qualifying tie against Poland next week. The rough diamonds Glenn

Hoddle could not handle are being polished again. In a press conference that was an inspiring as it was forthright. Keegan used his first squad announcement as the national team's part-time manager to initiate a sweeping rehabilita-tion of the men left on the outside in the last fractious months of Hoddle's doomed

regime.

There were call-ups for Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers striker who refused to play for the England B team, for Ray Parlour, the Arsenal midfield player who famously acked Fileen Drewery for a 7 Fine-tune (6) 8 Word modifying adjective (6) 13 Relating to court of law (8) 14 Goneril's husband; NY capiasked Eileen Drewery for a short, back and sides when she offered to lay her hands on 19 Circumference (5)
21 Reference line; centre of rotahim and for Andy Cole, the Manchester United striker. who called Hoddle a coward. In all of those choices, Keegan not only threw down the gauntlet to a group of supremely talented players with something to prove but

> of coping with even the strong-est of English football's millionaire personalities. In particular, he said he was determined to sort out the lingering bitterness that exists between Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux after their prolonged and unsavoury

he also stamped his authority

on the job immediately by em-

phasising that he is confident

altercation. Keegan, who picked 24 players rather than the usual 22, stressed that he saw it as a priority to re-establish a feeling of unity and ca-maraderie in the squad. It is even possible that he is considering banishing Le Saux and Powler if they do not patch up their differences, hence the two extra names released yesterday in a list that also rewarded Tim Sherwood for his outstanding form since his move to Tottenham Hotspur.

"I am going to get Le Saux and Fowler in a room togeth-er," Keegan said. "They have got to, in some way, repair the damage that has been done. We are part of an England squad and the last thing we want is any friction or bad feeling between any players who are playing for the same cause. I'll let you know what happens. I hope I can solve it."

manager is his ability to create an intensely positive atmos-phere around his sides, so it is even more important for him to stamp out internal dissent

immediately. He furthered that cause yesterday by refusing to criticise Sutton for his actions, by being candid about the fact that he would have taken Ray Parlour to the World Cup last summer if he had been in charge and by taking an almost childish delight in his new duties as England

ENGLAND SQUAD

He said he had felt like any other England supporter as he



Keegan radiates optimism while naming his first squad

match at Wembley a week to-morrow that he knows England must win. He doodled names on a piece of paper before whittling them down to 24 by including only two

goalkeepers.
Sunton's name survived. "I think he deserves a second chance. I walked out on Don Revie once. I also threw my shirt off at Wembley when I got sent off so, I can't sit up here and criticise other players too much. You do things under that kind of pressure sometimes that even you don't un-. derstand. Chris is 26 and he has still some potential to fulfil. The next step is to make it into the team."

Contrary to much of the advance speculation about the problematic left midfield position, Keegan did not include any natural left-footers like Jason Wilcox, Scott Sellars or Steve Guppy. That suggests he is likely either to move Le Saux forward into midfield or, more probably, to take a gamble on Steve McManaman, who filled that role with such success during the 1996 European championship but seemed to be mistrusted by Hoddle.

If it was starting to look a little like the beginning of The Dirty Dozen, but that image was diluted by the exclusion of Paul Gascoigne, whose chances had been spoiled by recent lack of opportunities to prove keen to praise him, though. "I bumped into him at King's Cross just after I got the job," he said. The laughter started then. "Did you trip over him?" someone asked. But Keegan just smiled. He has got his



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